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SIR EGERTON LEIGH, BART., AS A CHILD

Frontispiece]

MEMORIALS

OF A

WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY

BY THE REV.

BRIDGEMAN G. F. C. W.-BOUGHTON-LEIGH, M.A.

RECTOR OF HARBOROUGH MAGNA

AND CHAPLAIN TO THE MOST WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CORDWAINERS

OF THE CITY OF LONDON

WITH PREFATORY NOTE BY

SIR HUGH GILZEAN-REID, LL.D., D.L.

AUTHOR OF 'PAST AND PRESENT OR SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS LIFE IN THE NORTH'

'MONOGRAPHS' ON THE REV. JOHN SKINNER, DISRAELI

PRESIDENT GARFIELD, ETC.

LONDON

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PREFATORY NOTE

It has been well said that 'Family Life' constitutes the surest foundation of a country or people. Where this vitalizing element is lacking, there can only be stagnation and decay. One all-permeating stimulus and source of strength is the just pride of Race, and another no less potent is the honourable pride of Family. However democratic we may be, or averse to class distinctions, every one must see that there is something at once tangible and ennobling in 'Descent'—in the succession of generation after generation from one good stock; culture—physical and moral; education; refining environments—all tending from age to age towards the evolvement of a higher breed, with the inherent accompaniments of sweetness and light. There may be, and often are, lapses, springing from inherited or self-induced causes; but the general trend is in the direction of intellectual and physical superiority. Probably

in no race is this so exemplified as in the Anglo-Saxon, both in the Mother-Country and throughout Greater Britain.

The poet has pictured 'the stately homes of England, how beautiful they stand': the castles and abbeys, the halls and mansions are an abiding glory of the land, and no vandal has arisen to compass their destruction except in times of social revolt or revolution; they not only adorn the landscape, making England, Scotland and Ireland the envy of the world,—they are also centres of beneficent influence and inspiring leadership, adorned inside with works of art and artistic furnishings, and possessing outside magnificent parks—stretching far in 'wavy undulations', all constantly placed freely at the service of the people.

There are other aspects of surpassing interest and intrinsic historic value. In Genealogy (with its handmaid Heraldry) there is a fertile field of investigation and study alike fascinating and full of instruction. Apart from this family element, biography would lose its personal quality and history become a mere record of obvious dates and facts.

In tracing natural succession; in marking how tendencies and characteristics develop or degenerate through family after family; in noting all new

conditions and intermixtures, diversified employments and opportunities—we not only learn the subtle lessons of heredity, but are enabled to meet new requirements as they arise and to devise individual adaptations in training and conditions; alas! how often it has to be deplored that so many even directly concerned undervalue and neglect this important branch of human knowledge.

'Memorials of a Warwickshire Family'—for which I have been asked to write this word of 'Introduction'—embodies and represents all that is best and most interesting in Family History. A notable race are the Leighs and Boughton-Leighs. Dating back into the early centuries, their descent can be reliably traced down through kings and nobles, stalwart yeomen, owners of vast acres, men high in the public service, worthy clergymen,—all men of mark in their day and way, some leading quiet and unobtrusive lives, faithfully fulfilling the territorial obligations which fall to their charge, others devoutly discharging the religious and social duties which the parish church and parishioners demand; a few taking aggressive part in public work or adventure, leaving 'names' known and honoured far beyond the circles in which they 'lived, moved, and had their being'.

It will not be deemed invidious to single out here the Egerton Leighs—notably Sir Egerton Leigh, Baronet, who, a hundred years ago, made a heroic stand for what he believed to be truth and duty, which recalls the pious and sacrificial dedication of apostolic and covenanting times. He gave himself up to the preaching of the Gospel, and the spot is still pointed out where, under a spreading tree, he often addressed thousands who flocked from all quarters to hear his words of wisdom and be inspired to lead nobler and more useful lives; his influence extended far and wide, and in a publication (1809) entitled—'The Answer of God: addressed to the Baptist Church of Christ at Rugby'—(of which he was founder)—are words of counsel and guidance which still live, and which strangely breathe the spirit of the sacred Epistles. Others bearing the same Christian and surname played a conspicuous and patriotic part in the administration of South Carolina at the time British rule ended, making irreparable sacrifices for the cause of Sovereign and Country. The same can be said in degrees of numerous members of this ancient and many-sided family.

The story is not one merely of individuals or families; it reveals in an impressive way the ideas,

customs, and conditions of the people in successive generations, and thus supplies invaluable material for the wider histories of county and country.

Altogether, the book is a valuable contribution to the 'Genealogical Library', which is steadily growing in extent and value; and I am confident that it will richly repay the most careful perusal and thoughtful study.

H. G.-R.

Dollis Hill House,
London, N.W.

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MEMORIALS

OF A

WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I AWOKE in the early morning of a bright September day with the many visions of the past and the future, which frequently accompany the return of consciousness, impressed upon my mind. I gazed through one of the windows of my room at the Vicarage, Newbold-on-Avon, upon the glorious picture that I had so often looked upon from the same spot, even from my earliest moments—the rising sun ascending the heavens in all the glorious majesty of his might, bringing joy and gladness in his wake, proclaiming that it was day. And my thoughts returned as to one that is aroused from dreamless sleep, and the strange events of the foregone day returned in all their vividness.

The day previous (being the 27th of September, 1902) had witnessed the departure hence of my father, reminding us that after a long and arduous life spent in the service of God, '*rest comes at last.*' His beloved wife, who had so faithfully laboured by his side for forty-four years, had already closed the labours of the day and '*entered into her rest*', April 17, 1897. Requiescant in Pace.

I realized that I was alone, deprived of the guiding hand and love of those who had been more than all to me, and that the parish had no longer that influence for good which had watched over its rise and fall with exceptional care and ability, tinged with the divine as well as every earthly sympathy, for the last fifty years; each Sunday bringing some new theme, aye! each day bringing its own allotted task to instruct and to lead both young and old to their eternal reward.

But the mere recital of clerical duties does not in any way exhaust the value of lives such as these. Whatever may have been the varying feelings towards the church which they represented, the villagers were always of one mind in their devotion towards those who were to them '*a Father and Mother in God*', regarding them in the real sense as being something more than friends, upright and

NEWBOLD-ON-AVON CHURCH AND VICARAGE

To face p. 3]

just in their judgements of them, as well as sympathetic helpers in the time of need;—simple and blameless in their lives, always ready with unfailing courtesy to all around them. When such disappear from our midst there must be universal sorrow, for we can never replace them. But their influence for good must remain, over both the younger and the older inhabitants of the parish; and they never thought highly of themselves or of their life-work.

The desire came into my mind to perpetuate the memories of that family of which he, their Vicar,—the last sire of his generation—now passed away, was the worthy head.

The benefice too—the Vicarage—the very home of our childhood, had become endeared to us all, as years rolled on, for its old associations and attachments, the companionships of a lifelong existence, now threatened with the spoiler's hand.

> The undulating woods and silent trees,
> The rippling rivulet and evening gloom
> Now deepening the dark shades, for speech assuming,
> Held commune with the departed spirits
> As if they and it were all that was.

Animated with love for their memory, and with a regard for those who still hold them dear, I am, with my waking thoughts, led to collect and publish

the following record, for the benefit of the people who dwell in those parishes where our ancestors had lived so long before us through so many ages.

For although shelves are heavy with the weight of deeds black with the dust of many centuries—the annals of our house which have long since passed into the history of the nation—there yet remains a large collection touching the memories of those we love; memories too sacred, it is true, to appeal to the outside world, but which are interesting chiefly to those bound together by the ties of kin and friendship.

In these days, even with the multiplicity of books, much is left to perish, through indifference. The eager march of time and the ever changeful nature of our environments are constantly obliterating the past, and it appears to me to be the duty of some member of every family to gather together the stray leaves of their history, and endeavour to give permanency to the fragments of family lore.

The tender, lasting love—all the memories of a father and mother, and the injunction laid upon me by an uncle, the former Squire of Brownsover, have prompted more especially the undertaking of this task; 'for a book' (as the late Lord Dufferin said) 'once published, has put on the robes of

PART OF THE MONUMENT IN SOUTH AISLE, ERECTED TO THOMAS BOUGHTON AND ELIZABETH HIS WIFE, 1454
AS IT APPEARED IN 1905, AFTER HAVING BEEN HIDDEN FOR 120 YEARS

To face p. 5]

immortality'; it becomes a κτῆμα ἐς ἀεί, an indestructible witness to the existence and individuality of its author.

Not less important is the wish to preserve, for future reference, some faint glimpse of the features of those who, having gone before, have left but a faint mark upon the sands of time; for even with the greatest care, the deeds and portraits of one's forefathers oftentimes mysteriously disappear.

Again, some son less loyal perhaps to the house he represents than he should be, may regard family links, both deeds and gifts which have been handed down to him for safe custody, safe conduct, even by an unwritten law—like Charles Surface in *The School for Scandal*—as so much lumber; as in the case of the Boughtons, several portraits of the elder branch have been quietly taken away to add adornment to other homes. The South aisle of the parish church at Newbold-on-Avon, built and endowed by the Boughtons, is now occupied by those whom they did not know.[1] Lands, too, passed

[1] Whilst these memoirs were in the press, this South aisle of the church was restored, and some monuments erected to the Boughtons were once again brought to light, after having been partially hidden for the space of about 130 years. They consist of fluted marble slabs on carved altar-tombs, and on the face of the slabs are fine incised figures. The monument represented in the illustration lies partly

into other hands. Yea! even the very monuments hidden and displaced by aliens, and the 'presentation' to the church itself, above referred to, which should have remained in the family, bound by their very life-blood, have been ruthlessly sundered, or given to strangers[1], by those who should have been the last to demean their house. *'Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord. Shall not My soul be avenged on such . . . as this?'*

The towered heights of Newbold
  Seen in the cloudless sky,
With many a frowning turret crowned,
  Of antique masonry.

under a low arch in the south wall. The late Vicar (the Rev. Theodosius E. B. W.-Boughton-Leigh) made many attempts to get it restored to view. The figures represent Thomas Boughton and Elizabeth his wife, and the inscription which encircles them is in Latin, and reads, 'Whoever you are who pass by, stop, read and lament. I am what you will be, I have been what you are, I beseech you pray for me. Pray for the well-being of Thomas Boughton, and for the soul of Elizabeth his wife, who died the 28th day of the month of May, A. D. 1454.' The colouring of the armorial bearings is still visible, and the incised lines are filled in with a black composition so as to give them a perfectly clear outline.

Another monument, probably of the same kind, has been shamefully used, and made to answer the purpose of a lid to the vault, and has been greatly damaged in consequence. The figure, though worn, can still be traced, and represents that of a bishop with his mitre at the head.

[1] The Rev. Alan Dickins, who was appointed Vicar in opposition to a petition signed by six hundred of the parishioners, died, aged 42 years, May, 1903, a few weeks after his institution, before commencing his residence at the Vicarage.

Fair Avon woos the lily lawn
A bow-shot length below,
And winding through the flowery fields,
Her silvery waters flow.

Aye, when the setting sun's last rays
With golden glory gleam,
Clear may ye see the brave old tower
Reflected in the stream.

Arden's enchanted forest there,
Seen stretching far and wide,
Oft decks with overhanging trees
Her banks on either side.

And by Our Lady well I ween,
That lower garden's pride
Was famed of fair and lusty growth,
When Christ for sinners died.[1]

Such incidents in one's family as those above referred to, have made me particularly anxious to preserve for generations yet unborn 'an outline in the robes of flesh' in which my predecessors were clothed.

Surely few things exercise so powerful a fascination as to live in the light of those whose memories are dear to us, to feel that they still form a real part of the family circle, that although they change,

[1] Presented Sept. 12, 1886, and Jan. 1, 1892, to Bridgeman Boughton-Leigh, with best love, from his affectionate uncle, Allesley Boughton-Leigh, of Brownsover Hall, the author.

they do not change to us, but are eyewitnesses of our hours of joy and brightness, and sharers of our grief and sorrow; those who, though departed, linger in memory's sweet vision still, and speak to us who are fortunate enough to have the Memorials on the walls of our rooms, or as the nearest approach to this high privilege, to possess them in a book. In offering this record to my family friends, I shall also endeavour to render indestructible the outlines of some of the homes of various members of the family; the houses reared at their bidding, around which have grown up the traditions of hope, the ambitions, the loves, of many of the race; surrounded as these old homes are by the very presence of the Boughton-Leighs; the gardens laid out by their directions, the trees planted by their hands, all tending to cement in a bond of sacred memory, not my own early life only, but the lives of those nearest and dearest to me who have passed away.

There are, too, the tombs in which they rest; there are the solemn shrines which depict their forms; the inscriptions which have served to keep their names from oblivion; the font at which they received their baptismal grace; the pulpit in which they preached; the pews in which they sat;

the altar on whose steps they received the 'Bread of Life', cementing their bridal vows.

To all these features of our English country life, I shall add some account of the parish so long associated with my family, in the hope of stimulating in the breasts of others a keener regard for all that is worthy of memory in the past;—if some attempt be not made to render permanent such memories, a generation hence, it might be impossible to fill up the gaps.

NEWBOLD-ON-AVON CHURCH, FROM THE RIVER AVON

CHAPTER II

NEWBOLD-ON-AVON

Amongst the many parishes around Rugby in which the Boughton and the Leigh families were located, Newbold-on-Avon must always, to my mind, stand out supreme: the very Eden of Warwickshire, the most delightful of all the gardens that flourish upon the banks of the Avon.

Here in the parish church of St. Botolph repose a long line of the elder branch of the Boughtons, their fine sculptured monuments dating back to the year 1401.

The village itself is of considerable historical importance. In the General Survey made by William, Duke of Normandy, the township was certified to contain eight 'hides' of land, then valued at one hundred shillings annual rental. The name of one of its earliest Saxon possessors was Leuinnis.

After the Conquest, Geoffrey de Wirce became the owner, but his chief seat was at Monks Kirby in this county, and he gave to the monks of Saint Nicholas at Angiers, out of the lordship of Newbold, 'two parts of the tithes of corn and cattel, and all the tithe of wool and cheese; also the use of the mill and a man to gather them.' The mention of the mill is significant as it has long since been swept away in the lapse of ages. In a work of this nature one is anxious to avoid genealogies; we therefore pass on to a certain William Pantolf, who, according to the records of the famous Cistercian monastery of Pipewell, 'betook himself to a retired life, and resided in the monastery of Pipewell, having a chamber assigned him by the monks there, where he determined to end his days,

and to have been a good benefactor to them; but, on a time, the monks removed him out of that lodging, in respect of an entertainment they gave to a great judge, who travelled that way; which caused him to take such distaste, that he presently left the house, and came to Monks Kirby where he died, giving to that monastery what he intended leaving to Pipewell, viz. the capital messuage or manor of Newbold, with three carucates of land and fishing in the river Avon.'[1]

The monastic brethren of Monks Kirby thus having possession of the old manor in this parish, obtained also some further grants of land in this lordship, for in the fourth year of the reign of Edward I they had the moiety of the manor, and in the thirty-third year of the same reign obtained power to hold a court leet for their freeholders and tenants at Newbold, with other privileges; and further, a charter of free-warren in all their demesne lands in the parish of Newbold (then written Newbold-Pantolf).

[1] The capital messuage or manor castle of Newbold-on-Avon was situated on the rising ground on the north-west side of the church or monastery, running through the site now occupied by the Vicarage and its gardens down to the foot of the hill on the east where the ancient remains of the old manor house, renovated by succeeding generations, now stand to mark the spot, the beautiful grounds sloping down through the open valley to the river on the south.

As we enter the parish from Rugby, it is interesting to note the old water-mill a little to the right, which bears the name of the Avon Inn. (A mill existed here at the time of the Conquest.) The surroundings here are at all seasons very pleasant, and the river, although at times very shallow, rushing on bubbling over the pebbles, adds considerably to the beauty of the scene. The bridge over the water now occupies the site of an ancient bridge to which an old native of Newbold-on-Avon (Fostered), in the sixteenth century, left certain lands for its repair for ever.

The river here takes two courses, the main stream turning off to the left by a circuitous route encompassing the meadows, until it rejoins a little lower down the waste stream, which runs alongside the old turnpike road for about a quarter of a mile and in the time of floods makes the roads quite impassable.

Shortly after the dissolution of the monasteries the land and property in this parish, belonging to the monks of Pipewell, called Newbold Grange, were given to Mr. Edward Boughton and his heirs by a grant from the Crown in the thirty-third year of the reign of Henry VIII. But one half of the manor of this parish was obtained by Mr. Thomas White-

man, who, in the fourth year of Elizabeth's reign, sold it to Sir Thomas Leigh, whose great-grandchild—Francis, Lord Dunsmore—had a confirmation of the same from Charles I in the fifteenth year of his reign. The other half of the manor which belonged to the monastery of Monks Kirby, and the right of presentation to the living of the church of this parish, previously in the gift of the brethren of the said religious house, passed into the possession of the Boughtons. Sir William Dugdale certifies the same to have been in the possession of the Boughtons at the same time as Lord Dunsmore was confirmed in his estate here, viz. the fifteenth year of Charles I. Since that time the Boughton family, whose descent will be given in a subsequent chapter, have held property here, and still retain the right of patronage to the advowson of Newbold-on-Avon church, which during the vicariate of the late Vicar (the Rev. Theodosius Egerton B. W.-Boughton-Leigh) was increased in value twofold, as throughout the whole of his long incumbency of fifty years he worked unceasingly for the good of his parishioners, and never lost an opportunity of improving the living also. And about the year 1870, he purchased some land on the Rugby road known as Rangehills, also Brick-kiln Fields adjoining

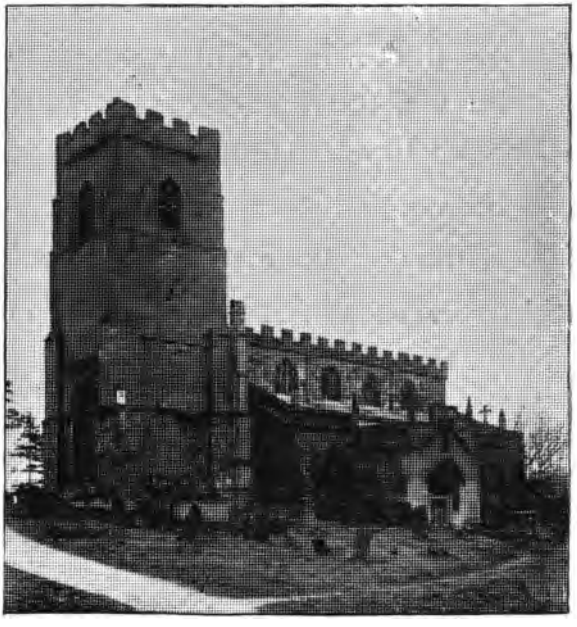
the church on the south and west, together with one of the most ancient and picturesque houses in the village, which he had converted at his own expense into three dwelling-houses on the site of the old Castle. He was not slow to see the ever-increasing value of these estates, and by adding them to the endowment of the church, not only vastly improved its financial resources, but also greatly enriched the charms of the Vicarage and its surroundings.

Passing the site of Newbold Grange, which overlooks a fine country across the valley through which the river winds, we come on the right to the school, an erection of simple architecture, built by the first School Board in the year 1876. At the angle just beyond where the roads cross, the toll-gate used to stand, and on the left is the road leading over the river (the former site of the old mill) across the fields to Rugby. Here is a long plank foot-bridge, connecting the two parishes New Bilton and Newbold-on-Avon, erected about the year 1880, by the same Vicar (the Rev. Theodosius Egerton B. W.-Boughton-Leigh). Passing through the village, we find an old picturesque inn, the Horse Shoes, and a little further the site of the former Wesleyan chapel now converted into cot-

tages; and upon the other side of the road, almost opposite, is the present chapel belonging to that community, bordered on the south by the river Avon, and on the north by the main street of the village.

A short distance further on, passing the old manor house (now (1905) made into two picturesque cottages, belonging to the author) on the left, we come to the Vicarage, and the fine old church a little retired from the road, a venerable building rich in colour and symmetrical in outline. It stands amid the loveliest of forest trees overlooking a wide valley through which the Avon flows. It is one of the most interesting churches in the neighbourhood, and should be visited by all who appreciate the ancient monuments and temples of our land.

ON THE RIVER AVON NEAR NEWBOLD-ON-AVON GRANGE



NEWBOLD-ON-AVON CHURCH: SOUTH SIDE

CHAPTER III

HISTORY OF NEWBOLD-ON-AVON CHURCH

THE church consists of nave, chancel, North and South aisle, with square tower at the West end containing a good peal of six bells, bearing date 1792. Their silvery tones as they resound forth across the river and over the wide open valley which stretches in front, are redolent with a singular charm.

Inscriptions on Bells.

1. GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST.
   J. BRYANT, HERTFORD, FECIT, 1792.
   EX DONO REV. J. O.
2. J. BRYANT, HERTFORD, FECIT, 1792.
3. JOHN BRYANT, HERTFORD, FECIT, 1792.
4. and 5. J. BRYANT, HERTFORD, FECIT, 1792.
   GLORIA DEO IN EXCELSIS.
6. J. BRYANT, HERTFORD, FECIT, 1792.
   J. PARKER, VICAR. T. COMPTON, J. NORMAN, R. WEBB, C.-WARDENS. VIVOS AD CŒLUM, MORTUOS AD SOLUM PULSATA VOCO.

The South aisle was built in the fourteenth century by the Boughtons of Little Lawford. The chancel was restored about the year 1852 by Theodosia de Malsburg Ward-Boughton-Leigh, the daughter and heiress of Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart., and contains several monuments and tablets to the Boughtons, the chief members of this family having been buried here for over 700 years. On the South wall of the sanctuary hangs the funeral 'achievement' of one of the Boughtons, consisting of the glove, spur, and helmet. The pulpit is in good

SIR WILLIAM BOUGHTON, BART.
OB. JUL. 22, ANNO DNI. 1716, ÆTAT. 53
AND
HIS WIFE, LADY BOUGHTON

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preservation and of the Elizabethan period. There is a good organ, small but sweet-toned, in the western gallery, which the Vicar, the Rev. Theodosius Egerton Ward-Boughton-Leigh, obtained and placed here at the commencement of his ministry in 1852. There is also an ancient font and some portions of the antique screen.

On the South side of the chancel stands the fine marble monument, with effigies erect, of Sir William Boughton, Bart., and his lady. He is represented in a full flowing wig, a falling cravat, single-breasted coat, breeches and high-heeled shoes. It was sculptured by Rysbraeck, a noted artist. The portraits were taken from the paintings by Sir Godfrey Kneller, and are preserved at Brownsover Hall. The inscription is as follows:—'Near this Marble, in the Vault of his Ancestors, are deposited the sacred remains of Sir William Boughton, Bart. Descended of an honourable and ancient family, but far greater in personal worth than pedigree; for he has left to posterity an example of a tender and a most endearing husband, a kind and provident father, a generous neighbour; a hospitable entertainer of his friends at his table, and a constant reliever of the poor at his gates. These valuable qualities so effectually recommended him to the

esteem and favour of his County that he was unanimously elected their representative in the Parliament of Queen Anne, renowned for peace, where his steady and untarnished principles of loyalty to his Sovereign and zeal for the Established Church of England eminently distinguished him. His mournful Widow, Dame Catherine Boughton (the daughter of Sir Charles Shuckburgh of Shuckburgh, Bart., and of Catherine Shuckburgh, daughter of Sir Hugh Stewkley of Hinton in Hampshire, Bart., Vtroq; Parente Augusta) in gratitude to his Memory, has erected this monument, not as a complete register of his well-known merits, but as a sincere testimony of her Conjugal Affection. Ob. Jul. 22, Anno Dni. 1716, Ætat. 53.'[1]

Among the many slate slabs to the memory of the Boughtons, the following are specially worthy of mention:—

'Hic situs est Guilielmus Boughton, Baronettus, qui obijt Die Duodecimo Augusti Anno Ætatis suae quinquagesimo tertio 1683.'

'Here lieth the body of Francis Boughton son and heir apparent of Edward Boughton of Causton, Esq., and great-grandson of Humphrey Boughton

[1] This Sir William Boughton, Bart., was offered a peerage by Queen Anne, but he declined the honour.

of Pailton, Esq., who departed this life the 9th of October, 1728, aged 16.'

'Here lyeth the body of Edward Boughton, late of Causton in this County, Esq., who departed this life the 27th August, 1739, aged 55 years.'

On the North side of the chancel, over the priest's doorway, is the monument erected to Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart.—the founder of the Baptist Church at Rugby—designed by his widow, Lady Leigh, representing the Expiring Christian supported by the Angel Hope, pointing to the Cross, sculptured by Bacon, bearing the following inscription:—'To the Memory of Sir Egerton Leigh, Baronet, whose mortal remains are deposited in the family vault near this place. Was born March 25th, A.D. 1762; died April 26th, A.D. 1818. He was the only surviving son of Sir Egerton Leigh, Baronet, who was lineally descended from Hamon de Leigh, Lord of the Mediety of High Leigh in the County of Chester, from which place his family assumed their name, and were there seated previous to the Norman Conquest, and who having held several high Appointments under his Sovereign, George III, died at Charlestown, North America, and was buried in the Church of St. Philip in that city.

'Also to the Memory of Dame Theodosia Beauchamp, wife of the first-named Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart. She was the only daughter of Sir Edward Boughton, Baronet, of Lawford Hall and Brownsover Hall in this County, whose ancestors for many generations held possessions in the Counties of Warwick and Northampton. Born May 25th, A.D. 1757; died January 13th, A.D. 1830.

'Also to the Memory of John Egerton Ward-Boughton-Leigh, Cornet in the 1st Regiment of Dragoon Guards, who, having been seized with mortal sickness on his way to Canada, after four days' suffering, to the inexpressible grief of his sorrowing Parents and Friends, departed this life May 27th, A.D. 1839, aged 22 years.

'Also to the Memory of Theodosia Maria Boughton Egerton and Matilda Selina Boughton, Grandchildren of Sir Egerton Leigh and Theodosia Beauchamp, who died in their infancy, and the latter of whom was interred at Guilsborough in the County of Northampton.'

On the same wall of chancel, to the left of the above mural monument, is the following inscription:—

'In Memory of John Ward-Boughton-Leigh, of Brownsover Hall in the County of Warwick, and

of Guilsborough Hall in the County of Northampton, Esquire. Born the 5th day of May, 1791; died the 18th day of June, 1868.

H. M. Theodosia de Malsburg.

VIDUA EJUS SUMPTU SUO.

'Also in Memory of Theodosia de Malsburg, Widow of the above-named John Ward-Boughton-Leigh, Esquire, and only daughter and heiress of Sir Egerton Leigh, Baronet, of Westhall in the County of Chester, and Dame Theodosia Beauchamp, his wife, who was only daughter and heiress of Sir Edward Boughton, Baronet, of Lawford in the County of Warwick, which said Theodosia de Malsburg was born on the 16th day of December, 1792, and died the 28th day of February, 1870.'

On the open Bible carved in stone at the foot of the tablet are these words:—'I know that my Redeemer liveth.'

In 1665, about the time that Sir William Dugdale, Knight, compiled his history of this county, the ancient altar-tomb occupied its original and proper position in the middle of the central aisle,

but it is now placed north to south at the east end of the South aisle erected by the Boughtons. On the large, flat, top stone of this tomb are the incised effigies of Geoffrey de Allesley and Eleanor his wife.[1]

Standing north and south of the above tomb, are two alabaster monuments of great interest, adorned with small sculptured figures in devotional attitudes, surmounted with various armorial bearings. The inscriptions are as follow, beginning on the north side:—

'Edwardus Boughton obijt mortem xviij die mensis April., Anno Domini 1548.

'Elizabeth Boughton, filia Edwardi, obijt mortem xiij die mensis April., Anno Domini 1583.'

'Here lieth the body of Edward Boughton, Esq., and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Edward Catesbie of Lapworth Hall in the County of Warr. Esq., by whom he had issue two sonns William and Thomas and one daughter Katherin: Wch. Tho. married

[1] The inscription, also in Latin, is as follows:—'Here lieth Galfridus Allesley and Alianora his wife, who died the 18th day of August, A.D. 1401. May their souls rest in peace. Amen.'

THE NORTH ALABASTER MONUMENT TO EDWARD BOUGHTON (1548)
AND ELIZABETH BOUGHTON (1583)

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Judith, one of the daughters and co-heiress of Henry Baker of South Sewburie in the County of Essex, Esq., and Katherin married William Combe of Stratford-upon-Avon in the County of Warr. Esq., which Edward died 9 of Avg., 1625, and Elizabeth died the 12 of April, 1619.

'William, eldest sonne of the said Edward, married Abigail, the eldest daughter and co-heiress of the said Henry Baker, Esq., and had issue, Edward, William, Humfrey, Elizabeth, and Abigail: Wch. Abigail, wife of the said William, died the 21 of Feb., 1635. And Eliz. died the 14 of Jan., 1632. And Abigail died the 4 of Sept., 1636.'

The Thomas Boughton here mentioned was one of our earliest representatives in Parliament for this portion of Warwickshire.

The church further contains a good modern stained glass window at the end of the North aisle, bearing the following inscription:—'To the Glory of God and in loving remembrance of Harriet Agnes, wife of the Rev. Gerald Leigh Spencer, M.A., and the beloved daughter of the Rev. Theodosius Boughton-Leigh, M.A., Vicar of this parish, and Elizabeth his wife, who have erected this window to their daughter's memory 1895.' It consists of three

lights; the central light representing our Saviour blessing little children, and a likeness of Harriet Agnes holding a little child at His feet. 'Blessed

HARRIET AGNES LEIGH SPENCER, 1881

are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.' The light on the left represents the Apostles and Virgin presenting the little ones to Jesus of Nazareth, with the text: 'Suffer little children, and forbid them

not, to come unto Me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' The light on the right represents the sick, the blind, the maimed, and the halt, with the words—'I was sick and ye visited me.'

There is also a beautiful monument in the shape of a marble bust, erected in the North aisle, immediately on the left-hand side as you enter the church, giving an excellent likeness of the late Mrs. Boughton-Leigh, bearing this inscription:—'In loving Memory of Elizabeth, wife of the Rev. Theodosius Ward-Boughton-Leigh, Vicar of this parish, daughter and heiress of Thomas Cotterell, of 50, Eaton Square, S.W., Esquire, J.P., D.L., High Sheriff of the County of Middlesex. Born May 16th, 1828; died April 17th, 1897.'

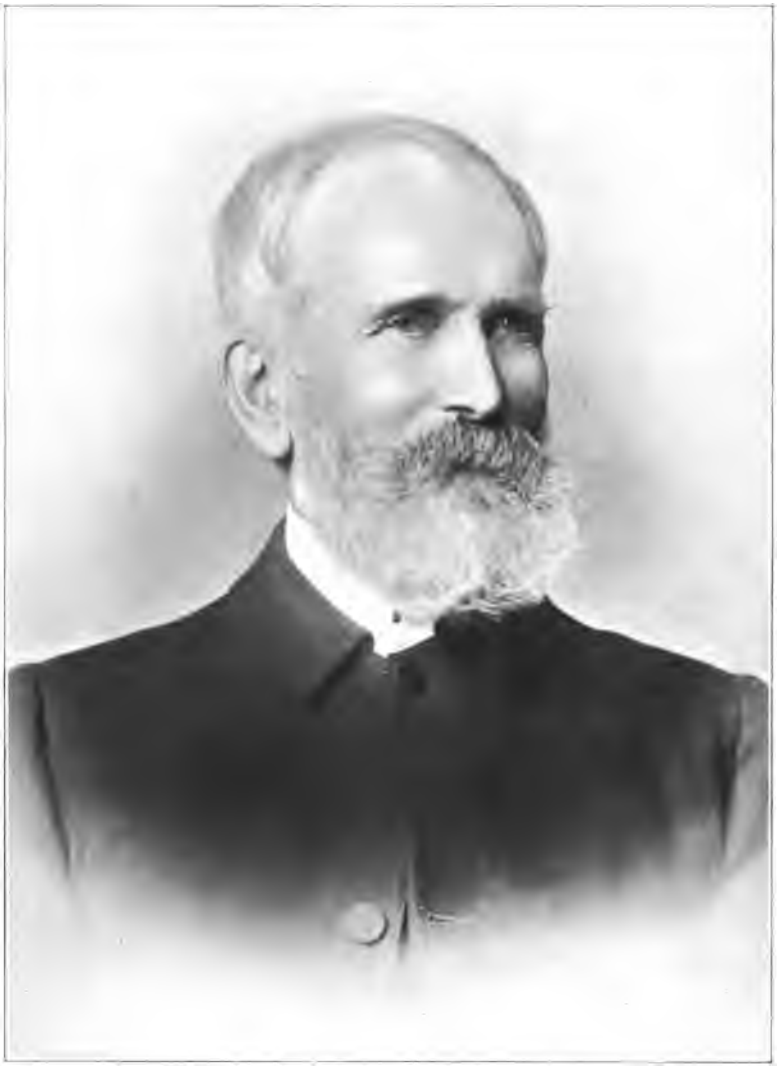
The historian Treen, in his description of this monument, says, 'A modern monument has recently been erected in the North aisle in the shape of a marble bust, giving an excellent likeness of the late Mrs. Boughton-Leigh, wife of the present Vicar (1901), whose generosity to the poor of this parish will not soon be forgotten. It is interesting to witness the revival, after many centuries, of the record of the features, in our churches in these parts, of those who, in their day, took an active share in the well-being of their poorer contem-

poraries. And it is to be sincerely trusted that all the rich possessions of this church—its handsome monuments, its stained glass window, the interesting old pulpit, sweet-toned organ, and its ancient font—will be carefully preserved whenever the sacred building undergoes that terrible ordeal known as restoration.'

On the north-east of the churchyard, adjoining the gate leading into the Vicarage garden, is the handsome monument erected in 1897 to the memory of Mrs. Boughton-Leigh, wife of the Vicar. It consists of a lofty obelisk of red carnation granite from Sweden, made by Pope & Son of Aberdeen. The obelisk stands about 14 ft. high on a 14 ft. square vault covered by Yorkshire landings 6 in. thick. The needle is 7 ft. 6 in. high, by 1 ft. 6 in. square at base, and 1 ft. square at top. It is surrounded by twelve granite pillars 1 ft. 9 in. high, 6 in. square, with connecting chains, &c., with a paved path round, enclosed with white marble edging. It bears the following inscriptions in gold lettering:—

[On the West panel]

'To the Glory of God, and in ever loving affectionate remembrance of Elizabeth, the beloved wife of the Rev. Theodosius Boughton-Leigh, M.A., Vicar



THE REV. THEODOSIUS EGERTON B. W.-BOUGHTON-LEIGH, FIFTY YEARS VICAR OF NEWBOLD-ON-AVON AND LONG LAWFORD, 1852–1902

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of this parish, and fondly cherished daughter of the late Thomas Cotterell, Esq., J.P., D.L., who departed this life on the 17th of April, 1897, in the 69th year of her age.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershadow'd
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

'"Until the day break and the shadows flee away."'

ELIZABETH W.-BOUGHTON-LEIGH, WIFE OF
THE REV. THEODOSIUS EGERTON B. W.-BOUGHTON-LEIGH, 1853-1897

'Her children arise up and call her blessed.'

[On the North panel]

'To the Glory of God, and in ever loving and affectionate remembrance of the Reverend Theodosius Egerton B. W.-Boughton-Leigh, M.A., for

fifty years Vicar of Newbold-on-Avon with Long Lawford, 1852–1902, who departed this life on the 27th September, 1902, in the 80th year of his age.

'"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me."

Lord all pitying, Jesu blest,
Grant him Thine eternal rest.'

On the same square vault stands also a monument consisting of a white marble cross upon steps with a lily entwined, bearing the following inscription:—

'With Christ, which is far better.

'In loving memory of Harriet Agnes, the beloved wife of the Rev. G. L. Spencer, and fondly cherished daughter of the Rev. Theodosius Boughton-Leigh and of Elizabeth his wife, who departed this life at Hereford on the 10th day of October, 1882, aged 25 years.'

Also buried in the same family vault 1887, the grandson of the Vicar, being his eldest son's first-born, and bearing the same name, Theodosius Cotterell Henry Ward-Boughton-Leigh, died in infancy at 27 First Avenue, Hove, Brighton, December 10, 1887.

THE REV. THEODOSIUS COTTERELL HENRY WARD-BOUGHTON-LEIGH
PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPLAIN, WARWICKSHIRE
RECTOR OF RODMERSHAM, KENT, AND ETCHINGHAM, SUSSEX

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MONUMENT ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF THE REV. THEODOSIUS COTTERELL HENRY WARD-BOUGHTON-LEIGH IN CUCKFIELD CHURCHYARD, SUSSEX, 1897

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The Reverend Theodosius Cotterell Henry Ward-Boughton-Leigh, to whose memory the monument opposite was erected at Cuckfield[1], was the elder brother of the author, and was cut off in the prime of manhood after only a few hours' illness at the early age of forty-three years. He was educated at Rugby and Cambridge, and having chosen the Church as his profession, became successively Rector of Bradfield-Combust, Suffolk, Etchingham, Sussex, and Rodmersham, Kent, where he died on December 14, 1897, and was buried at Cuckfield. Whilst at Cambridge he became a Freemason, the Isaac Newton University, No. 859, being his mother Lodge, and he will long live in the memory of his fellow craftsmen, especially at Cambridge and

[1] The inscription is as below:—

'I will give thee a Crown of Life. Rev. ii. 10.
To the Glory of God
And sacred to the deeply loved and ever present memory of
The Reverend Theodosius Cotterell Henry Ward-Boughton-Leigh,
Born May 6th, 1854,
Who departed this life at Rodmersham Vicarage, Sittingbourne,
Kent, Dec. 14th, 1897.
To the inexpressible and everlasting grief of his Widow
And little daughter Elsie, to whom he was their All in All.
Also of Gladys Eileen Ward-Boughton-Leigh,
The beloved infant daughter of the above,
Born June 10th, 1895, died July 23rd, 1895, at Tunbridge Wells.
Also Theodosius Bridgeman, Son of the above, who died
at 27 First Avenue, Hove, Dec. 6th, 1887.'

Warwickshire, for the latter of which counties he was Provincial Grand Chaplain, his grandfather having been Deputy Provincial Grand Master previously for many years.

In the churchyard at Newbold-on-Avon lie several men and women who in their day were notable. Just outside the South door we find perhaps the oldest vault. It commemorates certain members of the Onely family, once residents of this parish. Part only of the ancient inscription can now be traced. It reads thus :—

> The corpses that by this tombe do lye,
> Are Mr. Robert and Mrs. Elizabeth Onely,
> He the husband and she the wife,
> True partners of a godly life.
> He aged was seventy-nine,
> And she near seventy did incline.
> And Reader now thou knowest their age,
> Thy life to virtue thus engage.

Here also repose the ashes of the Rev. Edward Fall, for forty years the faithful minister of the Baptist Chapel, Rugby. He was educated entirely at the expense of Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart., at the celebrated Nonconformist Academy at Bristol, under Dr. Ryland, and after Sir Egerton ceased to take the sacred duties at the Rugby Chapel himself, was appointed by him in his place. Mr. Fall remained a faithful and honoured minister of the

Gospel, and closed a long life in the Saviour's service with humility and patience at the age of 79 years, on the 12th of April, 1859, at Park Cottage in this parish, and was buried by the Vicar, the Rev. Theodosius Egerton B. W.-Boughton-Leigh, the grandson of his old benefactor Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart.

Here too we find the last resting-place of the Rev. George Loggin, A.M., one of the Assistant Masters of Rugby School, who died at the age of 40 years, in July, 1824.

The remains also of a young unmarried woman of letters who—only a sojourner here—died at the age of 34. Unknown perchance to the land of fame, she was nevertheless a worthy benefactor of her race, and well remembered as one of the author's early governesses; clever, and able to impart her 'gifts' in a wonderful degree to those little ones committed to her care. Kind to almost a fault, she gained the respect and love of all, as she enlightened their youthful minds. She and her sister laboured assiduously as head mistresses of the National School, taking extra pupils out of school hours as a little recreation, and so it was that the author enjoyed her companionship, and was with her to the last, and his father, the Vicar of the

parish, raised a tombstone to her memory in the churchyard, with this inscription :—

'In affectionate remembrance of Elizabeth Chadwick, the Mistress of the Parish School of Newbold-on-Avon. She was second daughter of William Chadwick and Anne his wife, of Totmonslow, Draycot in the Moors, in the county of Stafford, and departed this life the 15th day of September, 1864, aged 34 years.'

Here too may be found the last resting-place of one who in her lifetime faithfully did her duty in her home life, and who on the memorable 16th of May, 1853, witnessed her newly-appointed Vicar drive in triumph up the village with his beautiful bride, and became from that day a true friend at the Vicarage, all through those long succeeding years to the day of her death in the year 1896. Her tombstone on the south side of the churchyard marks the spot with this record :—

'In loving memory of Sarah Ridley, who died April 3, 1896, aged 83 years. "So He bringeth them unto their desired haven."'

May we not safely say that no churchyard in the neighbourhood appeals more touchingly to the inward feelings than Newbold-on-Avon ? With its simple, graceful monuments, and their living

memories; its venerable church, rich in those warm-tinted tones of the red sandstone, with which generations of long forgotten masons reared in lowly reverence its sacred walls, combining those mysterious expressions of Faith and Hope, of distant days and future time, with the harmony of its peaceful surroundings. The venerable structure remains still—even in these days of hurry, and bustle, and progress—the spiritual and material centre of the traditions and aspirations of the families whose homesteads nestle beneath its shade.

St. Botolph, to whom the church is dedicated, is a rare patron of religious edifices. How he, a seafaring man, and chiefly patron of some few churches on the East Coast, where he dwelt, should have been selected for this inland village, I cannot say. In those dim and distant days he may have undertaken one of those pilgrimages which conduced so greatly, according to the mediaeval mind, to a life of holiness, or some pious brother of the house of Monks Kirby may have been stimulated by the records of St. Botolph's life, for we must remember that the brethren of Monks Kirby were for some centuries patrons of this church. Whatever the cause may have been, that a cause existed, no one who understands anything of the early

triumphs of religious teaching over ignorance can for one moment doubt. The supernatural was at this epoch a living factor in men's lives; the supposed influence of a pious man's remains long after his ashes had been covered from mortal eyes was as fully recognized in those times as the most material truths are with us to-day. These coincidents held in check the ferocity of men, whom no human arm could subdue, and who were unacquainted with any codes of moral government.

Amid such a dim past was the tiny seed of Christianity here planted, slowly improving as time went on,—the humble structure of wattle and daub passing away and in its turn giving place to stone, from which the rugged half-chiselled Norman style grew through slow centuries into the branching splendour of the Decorated and Perpendicular. To-day we see Newbold-on-Avon Church an expressive monument of these two later styles. Its ornate North porch is a decorated work of art in itself, with beautifully designed windows, whilst its South porch denotes one of the last touches ere the knell of the Reformation sounded. Three hundred years of history can be read here in these Gothic styles. On the south side we can with fancy's vision imagine the craftsmen with hurried steps

hastening away as the news of the great schism of the sixteenth century filled their ears. Neglect and indifference have reigned here more or less through the succeeding ages. The ancient tombs of the Boughtons have been relegated to the south-east corner of the side aisle, once ablaze with jewelled window beneath which stood an altar from whence arose the solemn dirge over the ashes of more than one member of the family.

History, romance, tragedy, all are here; old world manners; the courtly days of chivalry; that subordination of self; that respect unquestionably paid to rank and sex. All are here emblematically represented. The mouldering tomb, the funeral achievement, the helmet and spur, the royal escutcheon, the squire's pew, the remains of the rood-loft, the consecrated piscina, all speak of an age when self humbled itself before learning, piety, and birth. Our lives are cast in other days. Freedom and unrest are ever in a flux of passion. We pine for the cloister, quiet and holy. We long for the lengthened hours of study, for the uninterrupted time of thought. We long and wait for all these elements, but they come not to us and ours. They belong not to our day. To us the ever varying and changeful circle presents itself. Men

cannot study now, nay, they will soon cease to read altogether. The cultivation of the most perfect and flexible mode of literary expression, the glory of Athenian culture, is by us now all but unknown. Do not thoughts such as these flash through our minds, as we stand here on this glorious hill of Zion, in the presence of this sacred edifice, surrounded with its flowering shrubs and trees in bloom, the yellow laburnums and the white lilacs, the orange blossoms (not the true, but the syringa) which still adorn the Vicarage hill, planted there some fifty years ago by a beloved Vicar past and gone?

> Ah, happy hills! ah, pleasing shade!
> Ah, fields beloved in vain,
> Where once my careless childhood stray'd,
> A stranger yet to pain.

Here too in this beautiful country village, the monks of Pipewell enjoyed life upon the winding banks of the Avon so many centuries ago.

Let us learn our lesson and try to understand something of the indissoluble links which bind the Church to the Nation, which teach us how the Church became the Mother of Parliament; how the parochial system grew and flourished; how a lawless population, which considered human life of little value, drew near these shrines with reveren-

tial awe; how the monk became not a mere hermit, shut away from life around him, but the schoolmaster, the historian, the architect, the printer of Mediaeval England; how the priest, frequently poor and illiterate, badly clothed and fed, rose to the direction of parochial life, by the sanctity of his ministrations, and that system of equality, which until the Reformation dominated the ecclesiastical communities of Western Christendom. These were among the chief agents which enabled the Christian societies of the Middle Ages to rear, in times of poverty and violence, monumental works, which we in our poor and hurried lives but vainly strive to copy.

To-day the Church has to meet different evils, and consequently must of necessity shape itself to different ideals. The mental horizon has broadened. That the superstitious veneration which men were accustomed to pay to some saint, whose arm they imagined had brought them aid in time of trouble, should be revived amongst us to-day, few will deny would be an evil. That the submissive reverence which people once paid to the priestly caste would be not less so, is obvious to all who understand anything of history and of human ingenuity. But that these evils did in times of

lawless confusion produce an enduring good, will be denied by none who pause and reflect upon these noble monuments of the past.

I well remember in my younger days the old parish stocks and whipping-post, in a good state of preservation, standing outside the gate leading into the churchyard on the north side, but alas! they fell a victim to the bonfires one 5th of November, about the year 1868.

On the north-west of the churchyard, now covered by trees, is the site of the Castle erected here in the time of King Stephen and contemporary with that which existed at Rugby. On the opposite side of the road, a few yards from the churchyard entrance, is a splendid example of a half-timbered residence. It is surrounded by sombre foliage, and offers a perfect study to the landscape artist. It is one of those dwellings, becoming scarcer every year, and is a typical Warwickshire home.

Near the churchyard are the remains of the old canal and tunnel, the entrance to which is at the West end of the church, passing under part of the consecrated ground and coming out near where the Sunday School now stands, but this end is entirely blocked up, and does not quite reach the navigable part of the Oxford Canal which runs along

the north side of the village, and at the north-west end passes under a long tunnel. With this canal on the north, and the river Avon taking a circuitous course on the east and south, the village is formed into a peninsula.

Mr. Bloxam relates a very interesting account of a little incident in connexion with Newbold-on-Avon, in *The Meteor* of October 9, 1897, that happened on October 9, 1809.

It was the day of rejoicing, or the Jubilee of King George III, and a notice had appeared in the *Northampton Mercury* stating that 'At Rugby the day was observed much the same as in other places. It was pleasing to see the boys of the Rugby Charity School, dressed in their Sunday clothes, walking two and two to church, headed by their worthy preceptor the Rev. Dr. J. Wooll'. And this paragraph was considered as a skit against the School and attributed to a gentleman living at Newbold, between whom and the School there was a feud.

One of the favourite bathing-places on the river, much frequented by the School, was Langley's Hole, and the said gentleman had built a house (The Grange) near the high road between Newbold and Rugby, and had planted some shrubs and trees along the roadside for shelter. The front of the

house commanding a full view of the river and Langley's, the boys had notice that bathing was no longer permitted there, but the notice was disregarded by them, and the owner had thorns placed in the river, perhaps more *fortiter in re* than *suaviter in modo*. Anyway, the School thought they had a grievance, and the gentleman became unpopular. The School runs, or paper-chases, took place shortly after the Christmas holidays, and were continued till after Easter. One of these runs was called the Prize Poem Run, and it became customary for those who had gained the English and Latin Verse Prizes each to subscribe half a guinea, and the money thus contributed was supposed to be spent at a public-house where the kill was arranged to take place.

In the year 1815, a public-house at Newbold-on-Avon was fixed upon for the hares to run to, and an unusual number of boys on that day went the whole run, and many of the little boys were in at the death. Beer was brought out *ad libitum*, and all enjoyed and patronized the tap. It soon became necessary to move homewards to be in time for 5 o'clock C.O., and the announcement for that purpose was given. All set off for Rugby by the road, but about a quarter of a mile from Newbold

commenced the newly-formed plantation of the gentleman whose name in an unpopular manner had been handed down. One unlucky boy first trespassed into this plantation and began to cut a young tree; other boys followed his example and rushed through the plantation, breaking down the trees in all directions. In about a quarter of an hour it was estimated that damage had been done to the extent of upwards of one hundred pounds.

Of course there was a row; the matter could not be expected to end there. Due representations were made to the Doctor, and the four or five prepositors who were present gave themselves up as answerable for the mischief. But this was not enough, justice had to be satisfied, and the prepositors were required by the head master to give up the names of the wrong-doers, and they decided that they would not give up the name of any boy against his will, but every fag who volunteered to have his name given up should be excused fagging during the rest of the half-year. Whereupon volunteers flocked to the front. The prepositors had long impositions and had also to make an humble apology to the gentleman at Newbold Grange whose plantation had been destroyed, whilst the younger boys

who had given up their names received a severe birching. Some stoically inclined, or at least affecting to be so, bore their castigation like little Spartans. Others, who did not profess that philosophy, were fain to acknowledge that pain was an evil, the punishment inflicted being of such a nature as to call from them half-suppressed notes, anything but those of admiration.

And thus ended the famous Newbold-on-Avon Run, the like of which has not since occurred nor is likely to occur again.

The plantation was replanted and the trees unmolested grew with vigour, and lovers of a walk can see them there to-day, shading the Newbold Road, noble oaks standing clothed in the majesty of wellnigh a hundred years.

LIST OF VICARS OF NEWBOLD-ON-AVON.

Patroni Vicariæ.	Incumbentes, &c.
Alardus—of the time of King John, 1199.	
Prior and monachi de Kirby	Will. de Walton, Cap. 4 Kal. April, 1335.
Edw. Rex Angl. ratione temporal. Pr. de Kirby	Ric. de Wyke, Pbr. 7 Id. Apr., 1354.
Pr. & C. de Kirby	Walt. de Frelond, 17 Kal. Dec., 1366.
Dom. Rex, ratione temporal. Pr. de Kirby in manu sua	Ric. Tofte, Pbr. 14 Apr., 1393.
Prior & Conv. de Axholme	Rog. Hunt, Cap. 12 Sept., 1412.

Patroni Vicariæ.	Incumbentes, &c.
Prior & Conv. de Axholme	Tho. Normanton, Cap. 20 Nov., 1450.
Prior & Conv. de Axholme	Joh. Stamford, Pbr. 29 Dec., 1458.
D. Anna Comitissa Derb. ratione concess. Pr. and Con. de Axholme	Dom. Adam Halsall, 12 Apr., 1539.
Dominus Rex	Joh. Coppull, Cap. 10 Jan., 1544.
Ph. & M. Rex & Regina	Will Heather, Cler. 15 Junii, 1557.
Domina Regina	Edw. Bowne, Priest, the Vicar of Newbold-upon-Avon, 17 Julii, 1572, inst., was buried the 23rd of January, 1574.
Domina Regina	Rog. Barker, Cler. 25 Maii, 1575.
Jacobus Rex	Ric. King, Cler. 25 Junii, 1604. (1)
Tho. Gerard de Burwell in Com. Cantab. gen. ex concess. Edward Boughton, ar.	Henr. Wylde, S. Theol. Bac. 7 Maii, 1611.

John Hall died March 28th, 1657.

Richard Hall (date unknown).

Sir William Boughton, Bart.	John Francis Hands, bd. March 15th, 1715.
Sir William Boughton, Bart.	William Hands inducted 1715. „ „ buried Oct. 28, 1742. (2)
Lady Ann Boughton	John Parker, 1742 to 1787. (3)
Lady Anna Maria Boughton	John Parker, 1787 to 1816. (4)
Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart.	John T. Parker, 1816 to 1852.
John W.-Boughton-Leigh	Theodosius Egerton B. W.-Boughton-Leigh, 1852 to 1902. (5)

COPIES FROM ENTRIES IN REGISTER.

(1) 'Mr. Richard Kinge the second daie of August, 1604, aforesayd was Inducted and presented of the vicaredge of Newbolde.'

(2) 'There is a memorandum signed W. H., 1723.'

(3) 'Rev. John Parker, Vicar 45 years, buried Feb. 28th, 1787.'

(4) 'Rev. John Parker, Vicar of this Parish, buried March 3rd, 1816, aged 61 years, by John Wooll, D.D., Headmaster of Rugby School.'

(5) 'Theodosius Egerton Boughton Ward-Boughton-Leigh, The Vicarage, Newbold-on-Avon, for 50 years Vicar of this Parish, buried October 5th, 1902, in the 80th year of his age, by R. S. Mitchison, M.A., Rector of Barby.'

In the quiet old Cornish churchyard of St. Columb rest all that is mortal of the elder sister of the Rev. Theodosius E. B. W.-Boughton-Leigh, late Vicar of this parish, and a tablet bearing the following inscription is there erected to her memory:—

'In Te Domine Speravi.'
Sacred to the Memory of
Theodosia de Malsburg Leigh Boughton,
who died at Trekenning House, St. Columb,
On the 8th day of January, 1901. Aged 87 years.
The Widow of Thomas Fanshawe Parratt
of Effingham, Esquire; and eldest
daughter of J. W.-Boughton-Leigh,
of Brownsover Hall, in the County of
Warwick, and of Guilsborough Hall,
Northamptonshire, Esquire; the Great
Grand-daughter of Sir Edward Boughton
of Lawford Hall, Baronet, and
Grand-daughter of Sir Egerton Leigh,
of High Leigh, Baronet. Lineally descended
from Hamon de Leigh, Lord of the Mediety,
in the County of Cheshire, the Family
being there seated from a period previous
to the Norman Conquest.
The Deceased Lady was the 13th in descent
from Henry 7th, through Charles Brandon,
Duke of Suffolk.

The de Boveton or Boughton family is of the greatest antiquity in Warwickshire, but for the purpose of these Memoirs we will commence early in the fourteenth century, with Robert de Boveton (or Boughton) whose eldest son was named Richard, and his second son Robert was a great patron of the Nunnery of St. Mary de Pré, near Northampton. The next head of the house was William de Boveton, who was the first member of the family to assume the name Boughton, in the time of Edward III. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas Boughton of Lawford Hall. He was Justice of the Peace for Warwickshire in 1433, and one of our earliest representatives in Parliament the same year. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Geoffrey de Allesley, of Little Lawford, Warwickshire. The Allesley family were large landowners, and by this marriage property in several surrounding parishes passed into the possession of the Boughtons. His wife died May 20, 1454, and he survived her six years, dying in 1460. They were both buried in the family vault in Newbold-on-Avon church, near the bodies of Geoffrey de Allesley and Eleanor his wife. From this union descended Richard Boughton, who was Sheriff of the counties of Warwick and Leicester

in 1481, and again in 1485. He married Agnes Longville, and lost his life collecting troops for Richard III, being seized by some of the Earl of Richmond's forces as they passed through the county. His son William was twelve years old at his father's untimely death. He became an Esquire of the Body to Henry VIII, and Sheriff of the counties of Warwick and Leicester in 1536.[1] He was twice married: first to a daughter and co-heir of John D'Anvers of Waterstock in the county of Oxford; secondly, to Elizabeth Barrington. By his first wife he had a son Edward, and by his second wife a son Thomas Boughton. Edward, as the elder son, resided at Little Lawford Hall, and Thomas at Bilton Hall, and afterwards at Causton, and then at Rugby. Edward died April 23, 1548, and was buried in Newbold-on-Avon Church. He married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of William Willington, of Barcheston, who died April 22, 1583.

Thomas Boughton obtained Causton in 1545 by a grant from King Henry VIII, in recognition of his father's services to that monarch. His wife was Margaret, daughter and heiress of Edward Cave, and they had a son who was named Edward

[1] Henry VIII gave him a grant for a coat of arms.

Boughton, and lived at Causton. He was a great favourite of the famous Robert, Earl of Leicester, whose memory is chiefly associated with Queen Elizabeth's visit to him at his seat at Kenilworth Castle in 1575. This earl had acquired considerable property in Warwickshire, and presented to Edward Boughton the materials of the dissolved Whitefriars church in the city of Coventry, which had been founded by Sir John Pulteney in 1342. With these materials Edward Boughton raised Causton Hall (mentioned in Dugdale's *Antiquities of Warwickshire*). He died in 1589. His wife was Susanna, daughter of Sir John Brockets, Knight, and they had two children, a daughter Margaret, who married Thomas Trussell, and a son Henry Boughton, whose first wife was Howard, daughter of Edward Leigh of Rushall, Staffordshire, and secondly Joyce, daughter of William Combe, of Stratford-on-Avon. By the first wife he had a son Edward Boughton, who died October, 1642, leaving a daughter, who married first Sir Richard Wortley, and secondly William Cavendish, first Earl of Devon.

Henry Boughton (above mentioned) left a son William by his second wife Joyce, who lived at Causton, and died March, 1663. This William Boughton was succeeded by his nephew, Francis

Boughton, his heir. Francis Boughton founded the Free School at Dunchurch, Warwickshire. He married Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Norton of Coventry, Knight, and leaving no son he devised his estate by will to Edward Boughton of Lawford Hall, who was the descendant of Edward Boughton and Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of William Willington (mentioned above), who left a son William Boughton, who was Sheriff of the counties of Warwick and Leicester in 1575, and again in 1590. He died in 1596 and was buried in Newbold-on-Avon Church. He married Jane, sister of Sir Thomas Coningsby, Knight, of Hampton Court. From these descended a son Edward Boughton, who was born in 1572. He was sheriff in 1607, and added Bilton Hall and Manor and the advowson of the church to the estate, purchasing them from Henry Shuckburgh, son of John Shuckburgh, one of the six clerks in Chancery. He died August 9, 1625, and was buried in Newbold-on-Avon Church. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Edward Catesby of Lapworth Hall, Warwickshire, and Ashby St. Ledgers Hall, Northamptonshire (the ancient family implicated in the Gunpowder Treason). She died April 12, 1619. They left two sons and one daughter. The eldest son, William Boughton of

Lawford Hall, was Sheriff of Warwickshire in 1633, and was created a baronet August 4, 1641. He married Abigail, eldest daughter and co-heir of Henry Baker, of South Shoebury, Essex, who died February 21, 1635. Thomas, the brother of Edward Boughton, inherited the Manor and Hall of Bilton from his father, and married a sister of his brother's wife, Judith, daughter and co-heir of Henry Baker. They had three sons, Thomas, Richard, and Humphrey. The eldest, Thomas, lived at Bilton, and married Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Halford, knight. They had a son Edward, who also resided at the old Hall at Bilton, and who married Abigail, the daughter of Sir William Boughton, Bart., of Lawford Hall. By this marriage the families were again united. They had several children, and their second son, William, inherited Bilton Hall from them and sold it in 1708 to the Right Hon. Joseph Addison. William Boughton then took up his residence at Rugby at the manorial Hall. His eldest brother, Sir Edward Boughton, Bart., lived at Lawford Hall, and was member of Parliament for Warwickshire and High Sheriff for the same county in 1661. He was twice married: first, to Anne, second daughter of Thomas Pope, fourth Earl of Downe; and secondly, to Anne,

daughter of Sir John Heydon, Governor of Bermudas. Leaving no issue, he was succeeded by his brother, Sir William Boughton, Bart., who died August 12, 1683, aged 53 years, and was buried in Newbold-on-Avon Church. He married Mary, daughter of Hastings Ingram of Little Woolford, Warwickshire, who died February 24, 1693, aged 63 years, leaving a son and heir, Sir William Boughton, Bart., who was a member of Parliament for Warwickshire in 1712. He died July 22, 1716, aged 53 years, and was buried in Newbold-on-Avon Church. He was twice married: first, to Mary, daughter of John Ramsay, alderman of London; secondly, to Catherine, daughter of Sir Charles Shuckburgh, Bart., Warwickshire, in 1699, she dying in 1723. He left a son by the first wife, Edward, who became High Sheriff of Warwickshire in 1712, during the lifetime of his father, and succeeded to the baronetcy. He died February 12, 1722, aged 33 years. He married Grace, eldest daughter of Sir John Shuckburgh, Bart. They left a son Edward, who succeeded to the estates and became sixth baronet. He died suddenly March 3, 1772, aged 53 years. He was twice married: first, to a Miss Brydges of Somerset; and secondly, to Anna Maria Beauchamp, an heiress. He was succeeded by

his son by his second wife, Sir Theodosius Edward Allesley Boughton, Bart. This, the seventh baronet, was born August 3, 1760. He went to Rugby School, and afterwards to Eton, and died unmarried shortly before gaining his majority. The sister of this baronet, named Theodosia Anna Maria Ramsay Beauchamp Boughton, inherited the estates, and married Sir Egerton Leigh, 2nd Bart., who was the founder of the first Baptist chapel in Rugby. They had one son, named Egerton, who died at the early age of 13, and one daughter, named Theodosia de Malsburg, the heiress of the estates, who married John Ward-Boughton-Leigh, of Guilsborough Hall, Northamptonshire, who was High Sheriff of Warwickshire, a justice of the peace, and several times contested the Radical stronghold of Leicester unsuccessfully in the Conservative cause. He died at Brownsover Hall, 1868, and was buried in Newbold-on-Avon Church. His son, the Rev. Theodosius Egerton B. Ward-Boughton-Leigh, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge, was Vicar of Newbold-on-Avon (as previously mentioned in this work). He was born at Brownsover Hall, near Rugby, and educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1846 and M.A. in 1849. He was a well-read man, a good classical scholar, and an elegant

writer of verse, and was in his day the most celebrated preacher in the neighbourhood. In his younger days he was fond of all outdoor recreations and amusements. He was a first-rate shot, a good horseman to the last, and at cricket a bowler of considerable merit, and a reliable bat. Thus he encouraged his parishioners in the national game, and led them to lead healthy as well as religious lives, never failing to impress upon them the importance of carrying their religion with them into their daily work and pleasures, teaching indefatigably in the Church Day Schools (as they were then called) as well as in the Sunday Schools. We who can remember him during those busy years of his life, must ever connect his memory with the spiritual welfare and happiness of his parishioners. We can still see him passing in and out among them, caring for their daily wants, helping those in need, tending the sick and dying, comforting the sorrowful. The Glebe farmhouse, stables, wagon-hovel, and outbuildings were erected entirely at his own expense, and he laid out the whole of the Vicarage grounds at Newbold-on-Avon, taking the greatest interest in the study of the trees and shrubs and beautiful flowers in their many varieties, and to him the picturesque lawns and surroundings owe

their existence. Some of the brightest and happiest moments of his life were enjoyed in the lovely gardens which he had planted. There he rejoiced to see the young at play. There, too, nobly assisted by his good and beloved wife, he delighted to welcome the older parishioners to frequent dinner and tea parties, which, amidst the glories of the scene, must oftentimes have brought him in closer touch with the poorer members of his flock. He died, full of honour and heavenly riches, in possession of all his faculties, on September 27, 1902, in the eightieth year of his age—the last sire of his generation—his wife, beloved by the parishioners and many surrounding friends, having predeceased him, April 17, 1897.

Their souls to Him who gave them rose,
God led them to their long repose,
Their glorious rest;
And though the warriors' sun has set,
Their light shall linger round us yet,
Bright, radiant, blest.

He married in 1853 (April 27) Elizabeth, the only daughter and heiress of Thomas Cotterell, of 50 Eaton Square, S.W., and Wormley, Middlesex, Esquire, J.P., D.L., the issue of the marriage being five sons and four daughters, namely :—

(1) The Rev. Theodosius C. H., Rector of Rodmersham, Kent; m. 1887; d. 1897, leaving one daughter, Elsie Noëline Waller.
(2) The author of these Memoirs, Bridgeman George Fanshawe Cotterell.
(3) Harriet Agnes, m. 1881; d. 1882.
(4) Cotterell Egerton.
(5) John Hugh, m. 1892.
(6) Alice Elizabeth.
(7) Ethel Blanche, m. 1895.
(8) Percy Wilfrid, m. 1892.
(9) Lelia Annette, m. 1898.

From the stately church, the hum
Of their old friend's prayers doth come,
As is most fit, unto their tomb;
But their pious lips are dumb.

What; and if they deaf do lie!
What; and if they ope not eye!
If deaf those loving hearts doth lie
With God and us, they cannot die.

The following extracts are taken from the Parish Registers of Newbold-on-Avon and the adjoining Parishes verbatim :—

1558 Mr. Thomas Boughton was buried the vith day of May. (Dunchurch.)
1568 Elizabeth Boughton bapt. the third of October. (Newbold.)
1572 Edward Boughton baptized the xxxth of March. (Newbold.)
1575 Ann Boughton was baptized the third of Auguste. (Newbold.)
1577 John Boughton bapt. the xxvth of Octob^{er}. (Newbold.)

1578 Katherine, daur. of Edwd. Boughton of Cawson Esq., bapt. 11th of January. (Dunchurch.)

1579 Wm. Boughton of Cawson, buried 20th Dec. (Dunchurch.)

1581 William Boughton, sone of Wm. B. of Little Lawford, bapt. the xviij of June. (Newbold.)

1582 Susan, daur. of Edwd. Boughton of Cawson, Esq. buried 29 April. (Dunchurch.)

1583 Elizabeth Willington als. Boughton als. Wightman the mother of Mr. Wm. Boughton, buried the xxviij of April. (Newbold.)

1584 Humphrey Boughton of Little Lawford, Bapt. the xxvith of Julie. (Newbold.)

1585 Francis Boughton, Christ. the second of March. (Newbold.)

1586 Frances Boughton the Daughter of Mr. Wm. B. bur. the ixth of Aprill. (Newbold.)

1586 Mr. Richard Wortley, of Tankersly, Com. York, Esq., and Elizth daur. of Edwd Boughton of Cawson, Esq., married 1st of January. (Dunchurch.)

1587 James Bawives of Herdwich Com. Gloucester Gent. & Katherine Boughton of Cawson, married xxx April. (Dunchurch.)

1587 Henrie Boughton the sone of Mr. Wm. B. Bapt. the iiijth of August. (Newbold.)

1589 Edward Boughton of Cawson, Esq., was buried the xiiith of September. (Dunchurch.)

1589 Lucye Boughton bapt. the xxvi of October. (Newbold.)

1592 Frannce Boughton bapt. xvij of February. (Newbold.)

1593 Edwarde Boughton & Elizabeth Catesbye married the xxviijth October. (Newbold.)

1595 Robert Sherfyld of Seton Rutland, Esq., & Dorothee Boughton of Cawson, married 29th September. (Dunchurch.)

1595 Katherine Boughton bapt. the third of December. (Newbold.)

1596 Mr. William Boughton buried the xxvijth of Aprill. (Newbold.)

1596 M'garett Dudley, Aunt to my Lord Dudley, buried the xxijnd of May.

1599 Baptized the 23rd day of June, William Boughton son of Edward Boughton of Little Lawford. (Newbold.)

1602 Thomas Boughton son of Edward, Esq., Bapt. April 30th. (Newbold.)

1603 Mr. Thomas Trussell & Mrs. Margaret Boughton, married 9th Octr. (Dunchurch.)

(1604 Buried the xxvjth day of June Mr. Roger Barber, Vicar of Newbold.)

1610 Married the 8th day of August Mr. Thomas Lucy and Mildrid Frances Boughton. (Newbold.)

1612 William Combes and Katherin Boughton was married the ? of June. (Newbold.)

1618 Henry Sutherwell and Lucie Boughton, married Sept. xiij. (Newbold.)

1619 Elizabeth Boughton, buried the xiith of Aprill. (Newbold.)

1619 Francis son of Edwd. Boughton of Cawson, and joice bapt. 7th Septr. (Dunchurch.)

1620 Edward Boughton the eldr buryed the xviij daie of March. (Newbold.)

1620 Elizabeth, daur. of Edward Boughton of Cawson & Joyce his wife, bapt. same day, 17th Octr. (Dunchurch.)

1622 Anne, daur. of Mr. Edward Boughton of Causton, & Joyce, his wife, bapt. 28 April. (Dunchurch.)

1624 Edward the son of Mr. Thomas Boughton bapt. the 10th of May. Buried the 12th of the same. (Newbold.)

1625 Elizabeth daughter of Mr. Wm. Boughton and Mrs. Abigail Baker his wife, bapt. May 10. (Newbold.)

1625 Edward Boughton Esquire bur. Aug. 9. (Newbold.)

1625 Jho : ye. Sonne of Mr. Jho : Boughton and Mrs. judith Baker his wife bap : Jan : 28. (Newbold.)

1628 Edwd the Sonne of William Boughton Esq., and Abigail his wife baptized Septemb. the two-and-twentieth. (Newbold.)

1628 Mrs. Howard Boughton, wife of Mr. Henry Boughton of Cawson buried 16 March.

1629 William Boughton ye sonne of William Boughton, Esquire & Abigail his wife, was baptized the viijth of December. (Newbold.)

1631 Elizabeth Boughton, daughter of William Boughton, Esq., and Abigail his wife, Januar 14 (Buried). (Newbold.)

1633 Humphry sonne of William Boughton, Esq., and Abigail his wife, baptized the 6th of April. (Newbold.)

1635 Abigail Boughton wife of William Feb. 21st (buried). (Newbold.)

1636 Abigail Boughton daughter of William Sept. 4th (buried). (Newbold.)

1655 Thomas Boughton, eldest son of Thomas Boughton, Esquire, and Mary his wife, was born the twenty eighth of February, one thousand six hundred fifty five and was baptized ye twenty seventh day of March next following. (Bilton.)

1658 Judeth Boughton 2nd daughter of Thomas Boughton born 25th Septr 1658. (Bilton.)

1659 Ann Boughton, 3rd daur, born .... 1659. (Bilton.)

1660 Edward Boughton, son of Thomas, born 1660. (Bilton.)

1660 Francis Boughton, gent. was buried ye 12th March, 1660. (Dunchurch.)

1660 Sir William Boughton of Little Lawford, Baronett, deceased, the 27th day of October, Anno Dom. 1660, was buried the third day of November following. (Newbold.)

1662 The Lady Ann Boughton, wife to Sir Edward Boughton, and daughter of Sir Thomas Pope, Earl of Down, & of Wroxton, buried July 24th. (Newbold.)

1663 Humphrey Boughton, S. of Sir William Boughton, Bartt., buried July 20.

1666 Thomas Boughton, Esquire, dyed ye 6th day of December, was buryed ye 7th day 1666. (Bilton.)

1668 Richard Boughton, son of Richard Boughton and Mary his wife, born 18th June 1668. (Bilton.)

1680 Sir Edward Boughton, Bart., Buried Feb. 2nd. (Newbold.)

1680 Mary, Daughter of Edward Boughton, buried March 18th. (Bilton.)

1683 Sir William Boughton, Bartt., Buried Aug. 13. (Newbold.)

1685 Ann, daughter of Edward Boughton & Abigail his wife, was buried Janry. 28th. (Bilton.)

1686 Maria Boughton, D. of Sir William Boughton, Bartt., and Maria his wife, was born May ye 19th and Baptised May 31st. (Newbold.)

1686 William Boughton, Gent. buried Decr ye 18th. (Bilton.)

1687 Ann Boughton, d^r^ of Sir William Boughton of Little Lawford, Bart., and Mary his wife, was born July 27^th^ and Baptized Aug. 13. (Newbold.)

1689 Lucie Boughton, D^t^ of Sir Will. Boughton, Bart., & Maria his wife, Baptized Oct. 21. (Newbold.)

1690 Elizabeth y^e^ daur. of Edward Boughton, Esquire, bapt. March 5^th^. (Bilton.)

1691 Lucie Boughton buried Feb. 28^th^ Affid. made by Ann Fennery, of Little Lawford, before Mr. Richardson, Curate of Clifton, and brought Mar. the 5^th^. (Newbold.)

1692 Dame Mary Boughton of Hillmorton, Buried at Newbold March the 3^rd^ 1692, and no Affid: was brought to me. (Newbold.)

1693 Edward, son of Edward Boughton and Abigail his wife, bapt. May the 26^th^. (Bilton.)

1700 Catharine Boughton, the daughter of Sir William Boughton of Little Lawford, Barrtt. & Dame Catherine his wife, was Bapt. Mar. 9 (above entered three times in Register). (Newbold.)

1700 William Boughton, son of Sir William Boughton of Little Lawford, Bart., and Dame Catherine his wife Bapt. May 7. The same William Boughton buried May 13. (Newbold.)

1702 Richard Boughton, Gent., aged 74 years, died on Friday Nov. y^e^ 13^th^ about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and was buried at Dunchurch Nov^r^ y^e^ 16^th^ 1702. (Bilton.)

1702 Mrs. Elizabeth Boughton died Jany. 7^th^. (Bilton.)

1703 Edward Boughton Gent. died Jany. y^e^ 9^th^. (Bilton.)

1703 Shuckburgh Boughton, son of Sir William Boughton, Bart., and Dame Catherine his wife, Bapt. Mar. 25. (Newbold.)

1704 Thomas Boughton, son of Sir William Boughton of Little Lawford, Barrtt. and Dame Catherine his wife, born March the 17^th^, 1703, was Baptised Mar. 28^th^. (Newbold.)

1704 Tho. Boughton, son of Sir William Boughton of Little Lawford, Barrtt. buried Oct. 22. (Newbold.)

1705 Charles Boughton, son of Sir William Boughton of Little Lawford, Bart., and Dame Catherine his wife, was buried Nov. 10, 1705. (Newbold.)

1707 Francis Boughton of Causton, aged about 65, was buried July 31. (Dunchurch.)

1714 Abigail Boughton, wife of Edw^{d} Boughton, died Nov. 20, 1714, and was buried Nov^{r} 23. (Bilton.)

1716 Sir Wm. Boughton, Baronet, buried July 26, 1716. (Newbold.)

1719 Mr. Edw^{d} Boughton died Nov. 19th buried 22nd. (Bilton.)

1721 Sir Edward Boughton, Bart., buried Feb. 16, 1721. (Newbold.)

1724 Ruth Leigh, buried June 19, 1724. (Newbold.)

1725 Lady Catherine Boughton, buried July 26, 1725. (Newbold.)

1728 M^{r}. Francis Boughton buried Oct. 13, 1728. (Newbold.)

1730 Grace Boughton, sister of Matthew and Lady Boughton, Bap: July 28, 1730. (Newbold.)

1733 Mary, dr. of Lady Grace Boughton and Matthew, Bapt. Nov. 1. (Newbold.)

1734 Susanna Eleanor, dr. of Mat. Lister and Lady Boughton, Bap. Nov. 13. (Newbold.)

1736 Charlott Shuckburgh, dr. of Matthew Lister and Lady Boughton Bapt. April 16th. (Newbold.)

1737 Charlott Shuckburgh buried Jan. 14th 1737. (Newbold.)

1739 Edward Boughton, Esq^{re}, buried Aug. 28th. (Newbold.)

1745 William Boughton of Rugby, Esq., was buried May y^{e} 4th. (Bilton.)

1745 Edward, son of William Boughton, aforesaid, was buried July 1st. (Bilton.)

1750 Lady Anna Boughton, the wife of Sir Edward Boughton of Brownsover, Bart., was bury'd in the family vault the 15th of Jan^{y}. and the 67th year of her age. (Newbold.)

1751 Stephen Pitt of Kensington in the County of Middlesex, Esquire and Miss Grace Boughton Lister of Little Lawford, marry'd at the Private Chapel. Ap. 20.

1758 Theodosia Anna Maria Ramsay Boughton, dr. of Sir Edward Boughton Bart., and Dame Anna Maria his wife, Bapt. Sep. 11. (Newbold.)

1758 Theodosia Anna Maria Ramsay Boughton, bury'd Dec. 2nd (Newbold.)

1761[1] Theodosius W^{m}. Willington Boughton, son of Sir Edw. Boughton, Bart., & Dame Anna Maria his wife was Bapt. Oct. 20.

[1] The entries from 1761 onwards are all from the Newbold Register.

1761 Theodosius W^m. Willington Boughton, bury'd Dec. 2.
1772 Sir T. Boughton, Bart., bur^d Mar. 10.
1780 Sir Theo. Ed. Alli: Boughton Bartt., bury'd Sept. 6.
1787 Lady Anna Maria Boughton, buried Aug. 23^rd.
1789 Miss Theo. Leigh, buried July 15^th.
1804 Egerton Leigh, buried Sept. 14^th, 1804.
1804 Rev. John Beauchamp, buried 26^th Sept. 1804.
1816 Boughton Egerton Ward, Guilsborough Grange, Northamptonshire, buried Jan. 17^th, 1816, aged 7 months.
1818 Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart., Brownsover & Montague Square, London, buried May 7^th, aged 57 years.
1830 Dame Theodosia Beauchamp Leigh, wife of Barry Omeara, Esq^re, Brownsover & Montague Square, London, Jan. 20^th, aged 73 (buried).
1839 John Boughton Egerton Ward-Boughton-Leigh, Brownsover, June 8, aged 22 years (buried).
1852 Maria Selina Boughton Ward-Boughton-Leigh, Brownsover Hall, September 9^th, aged 22 years (buried).
1854 Theodosius Cotterell Henry, Son of Theodosius E. Boughton and Elizabeth Ward-Boughton-Leigh, of Newbold-on-Avon, by Theodosius E. B. W.-Boughton-Leigh, Vicar. Baptized Oct^er 26^th.
1868 John Ward-Boughton-Leigh, Brownsover Hall, 24 June, 1868, aged 77 years (buried).
1870 Theodosia de Malsburg (widow of John) Ward-Boughton-Leigh, Brownsover Hall, March 5^th, 1870, aged 76 (buried).
1882 Harriet Agnes Spencer (wife of Rev^d G. Leigh Spencer), Sunnyside, Hereford, 17^th October, 1882, aged 25. (Eldest daughter of Rev. Theodosius Egerton B. & Elizabeth Ward-Boughton-Leigh.) Canon Dixon, D.D., St. Matt^w's. Rugby, & J. M. Furness, Offic. Min. (buried).
1882 Gerald Theodosius Leigh, Son of Gerald Leigh and Harriet Agnes Leigh Spencer (dec^d), of Sunnyside, Hereford, by Gerald Leigh Spencer, T. W.-Boughton-Leigh, B. G. Boughton-Leigh, and Leigh Spencer, Vicar of Renhold. Baptized Oct^er 17^th.
1887 Theodosius Bridgeman, Son of Theodosius Cotterell Henry and Florence Ward-Boughton-Leigh, of 27 First Avenue,

To face pedigree]

(7) *Ethel Blanche* = Mordaunt Kirwan Mordaunt-Smith.

(1) Lionel

(2) Eileen Frances

(3) Bridgeman Rochfort

(4) Cotterell

(7) Ethel Blanche = Mordaunt Kirwan Mordaunt-Smith.

(1) Lionel St. George. (2) Eileen Frances. (3) Bridgeman Rochfort. (4) Cotterell Boughton.

(8) Percy Wilfrid = (m. 1892) Henrietta Mary Hannington.

(1) Percy Wilfrid Theodosius. (2) Henrietta Elizabeth. (3) Alice Lelia Annette.

(9) Lelia Annette = Captain William Edward Manley, R.A.

William Bridgeman Lambert.

4. Egerton Leigh = Alice, daughter and heiress of Thomas Andrew.

(1) Alianore. (2) Dorothea. (3) Ada. (4) Evelyn.

5. Theodosia Leigh = Thomas Fanshawe Parratt, Effingham, Leatherhead.

6. Grace Anna = Capt. Rowley, R.N., eldest son of Admiral Sir Charles Rowley, R.N., Bart.

7. Jemima Lucy = Charles Grimshawe, Beds.

8. Matilda.

9. Emma Adelina = Julius Caesar Levison of Copenhagen.

To follow p. 62]

Cloth of Gold do not thou despyse
Though thou be rouncled with Cloth of Frise,
Cloth of Frise do not thou be bould
Though thou be rouncled with Cloth of Gold.
Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk &: Mary Queen of France.

To face pedigree]

(7) Ethel Blanche = Mordaunt Kirwan Mordaunt-Smith.

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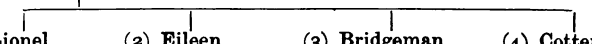

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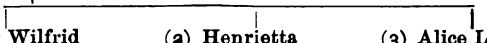
(8) Percy Wilfrid = (m. 1892) Henrietta Mary Hannington.



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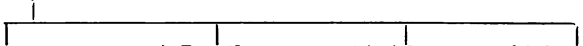

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To follow p. 62]

EXTRACTS FROM PARISH REGISTER.

Marriage solemnized by Special Licence in the Parish Church of Newbold-on-Avon in the County of Warwick.

1848 No. 85	May 11th 1848	Charles Evelyn Rowley Grace Anna Boughton Ward-Boughton-Leigh	Full age Full age	Bachelor Spinster	Capt. R.N.	Brownsover Hall Brownsover Hall	Charles Rowley John Ward-Boughton-Leigh	Baronet Esquire

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England, by me,

Charles Evelyn Rowley Grace Anna Boughton Ward-Boughton-Leigh	in the presence of us	J. W.-Boughton-Leigh Jemima Lucy Boughton Ward-Boughton-Leigh	The^{s}. W.-Boughton-Leigh, Officiating Minister

			After Banns					
1871 No. 250	28th September	Julius Caesar Levison	Full age	Bachelor	Esquire	Copenhagen, Denmark	Pines Levison	Esquire
		Emma Adelina Boughton Ward-Boughton-Leigh	Full age	Spinster		Newbold-on-Avon	John Ward-Boughton-Leigh	Esquire

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England, by me,

Julius Caesar Levison Emma Adelina Boughton Ward-Boughton-Leigh	in the presence of us	E. Allesley B. W.-Boughton-Leigh T. C. H. Boughton-Leigh Ellen Boughton-Leigh. L. Levison Elizabeth W.-Boughton-Leigh	Theodosius W.-Boughton-Leigh, M.A., Vicar

			By Licence					
1881	11th August 1881	Gerald Leigh Spencer	Full age	Bachelor	Clerk in Holy Orders	Hereford	Leigh Spencer	Clerk in Holy Orders
		Harriet Agnes Ward-Boughton-Leigh	Full age	Spinster		Newbold-on-Avon	Theodosius Egerton Boughton Ward-Boughton-Leigh	Clerk in Holy Orders

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England, by me,

Gerald Leigh Spencer
Harriet Agnes Ward-Boughton-Leigh

in the presence of us

E. W. Boughton-Leigh
P. R. Spencer
J. R. Morgan
T. C. H. Boughton-Leigh

Assisted by and

Theodosius W.-Boughton-Leigh, M.A., Vicar
Leigh Spencer, Vicar of Renhold
B. Boughton-Leigh, B.A., Curate

			After Banns					
1895 No. 407 Page 204	30th January 1895	Mordaunt Kirwan Mordaunt-Smith	Full age	Bachelor	Gentleman	Rugby	Seton Lionel Smith	Major 54th Foot
		Ethel Blanche Ward-Boughton-Leigh	Full age	Spinster		Newbold-on-Avon, Rugby	Theodosius Egerton Boughton Ward-Boughton-Leigh	Clerk in Holy Orders

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England, by me,

Mordaunt Kirwan Mordaunt-Smith
Ethel Blanche Ward-Boughton-Leigh

in the presence of us

Elizth W.-Boughton-Leigh
A. Mary Towers Smith
Heyway Jones
W. T. B. Smith

Assisted by

Theodosius C. H. Boughton-Leigh
Bridgeman Boughton-Leigh, Rector of Harborough Magna

A ROUGH ABSTRACT OF BOUGHTON PEDIGREE.

†1460 — Thomas Boughton, of Lawford, Warwick, 6th in descent from Robertus de Boveton, who died 1326 or before. = Elizabeth de Allesley, heiress.

Edw. IV and V and Rich. III. — Richard Boughton, Escheator and Sheriff of Warwick and Leicester. = Agnes of Longville.

Hen. VIII. — William Boughton, Sheriff of Warwick and Leicester, and Esquire of the Body to Henry VIII. = Dau. and co-heiress of John D'Anvers of Waterstock, Oxon.

1548 — Edward Boughton = Elizabeth, dau. and co-heiress of Wm. Willington, of Barcheston, Co. Warwick.

1596 — William Boughton, Sheriff of Warwick and Leicester, of Lawford Hall. = Jane, sister of Sir Thomas Coningsby, of Hampton Court, Herefordshire.

1625. — Edward Boughton, Sheriff of Warwick and Leicester, of Lawford and Bilton Halls. = Elizabeth, co-heiress of Edward Catesby, of Lapworth, Warwick.

Created Baronet, 1641. — Sir Wm. Boughton, of Lawford Hall, 1st Bart. = Abigail, dau. and co-heiress of Henry Baker, of South Shoebury, Essex.

Sir Edward, of Lawford Hall, 2nd Bart., 1680.

Sir Wm., of Lawford Hall, 3rd Bart., 1683. = Mary Hastings Ingram, of Little Woolford.

(1st) Mary, dau. of John Ramsay, Alderman, London. = Sir Wm. Boughton, M.P., 4th Bart., 1716. = (2nd) Catherine, dau. of Sir Charles Shuckburgh, 2nd Bart.

Sir Edward Boughton, 5th Bart., 1722. = Grace, daughter of Sir John Shuckburgh, 3rd Bart.

(1st) Miss Brydges = Sir Edward Boughton, Sheriff of Warwick, 1772, 6th Bart. = (2nd) Anna Maria Beauchamp, heiress.

(1) Sir Theodosius Edward Allesley, 7th Bart., of Lawford Hall, poisoned, 1780.

(2) Theodosia = Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart.

Theodosia de Malsburg = John Ward-Boughton-Leigh.

(1) John B. (2) Edward A. (3) Theodosius E. B. = Elizabeth Cotterell.

(1) Theodosius C. H., m. 1887 : d. 1897.
(2) Bridgeman G. F. C.
(3) Harriet Agnes, m. 1881 : d. 1882.
(4) Cotterell E.
(5) John H., m. 1892.
(6) Alice Elizabeth.
(7) Ethel Blanche, m. 1895.
(8) Percy W., m. 1892.
(9) Lelia Annette, m. 1898.

The Communion plate at Newbold-on-Avon Church is interesting. Although only presented to the church early in the eighteenth century, it is of much more ancient date. The handsome silver alms-dish is circular in form, thirteen and a quarter inches in diameter, the centre being five and a half inches in diameter, and engraved with the Boughton coat of arms. The following inscription appears round the interior of the plate:—'The Gift of Dame Catherine Boughton to the Parish Church of Newbold, 1703.'

The massive silver jug with raised silver lid stands fourteen inches high and is five inches in diameter. It is engraved with 'I.H.S.' in choice lettering and a cross, bearing the following inscription:—'The Gift of Sir W^{m}. Boughton, Bart., to this Parish Church of Newbold, Anno Dom. 1708.'

The great-great-grandson of the above donors, the Rev. Theodosius Egerton B. W. Boughton-Leigh, followed in their good steps, and at the commencement of his ministry here as Vicar, a hundred and fifty years afterwards, presented a very ancient silver chalice and paten. The chalice stands ten inches high; the paten, being made to fit, is five and a quarter inches in diameter.

LITTLE LAWFORD MILL

CHAPTER IV

LITTLE LAWFORD[1]

THIS ancient hamlet of Newbold-on-Avon was owned by Alwine before the Norman Conquest. It contains two hides and a mill, then valued at ten shillings and eightpence, and through Alwine's son it came into the possession of Henry, the first Earl of Warwick, after the Conquest; and the venerable mill, which still exists, was granted in later years to the monks of Pipewell, for the rent of five marks of silver yearly, which rent was afterwards released for twenty marks by Simon de Patshull, who built the Chapter House at Pipewell; but it appears that the monks of Pipewell paid

[1] Lilleford in Doomsday-Book.

ten shillings for the tithe of their mill here yearly to the Prior of Monks Kirby, on the feast of St. Botolph, the patron saint of Newbold Church. At that time the monastic brethren of Monks Kirby were the patrons of the living of Newbold; but as they only possessed here further the mill at this hamlet, with the crofts and holms thereto belonging, they had to pay twenty shillings yearly to the monks of Combe, who owned here divers cottages. However, in the year 1226, an award was made whereby it was decreed that the Abbot and Convent of Pipewell and their successors and heirs should for ever enjoy this lordship with the manor house and all the appurtenances thereto, with the exception of six acres which the monks of Combe were to have for 'quietness' sake', and for which the monks of Pipewell paid twenty shillings a year as stated above.

About the beginning of Henry VI's time, we find this lordship in the possession of Geoffrey de Allesley, 'Dominus de Parva Lilleford.' He departed this life August 18, 1441, leaving issue Elizabeth, his daughter and heir, who married Thomas Boughton, whereby this ancient manorial hall and lordship became transferred to that family. This Thomas Boughton was constituted a justice of the peace in the county of Warwick

in the twenty-first year of Henry VI, and in the thirty-first year he served in the Parliament as one of the knights for Warwickshire, and again in the thirty-eighth year of the same reign was appointed to 'array and arm' all persons of 'body able and estate sufficient within the county of Warwick for the service of the king'. To him succeeded Richard, his son and heir, constituted Escheator for Warwickshire and Leicestershire in the thirteenth year of Edward IV and first of Edward V. He was again Escheator for these counties in the second year of Richard III, and had the misfortune to be slain on behalf of his king, whilst raising forces in Warwickshire on the eve of the battle of Bosworth, August 20, 1485. It is supposed by some that he was encountered by the Earl of Richmond's troops in their passage towards the field of Bosworth two days before the contest, although it is commonly reported that he fell there in battle array. William, his son and heir, became Esquire of the Body to Henry VIII, and in the twenty-seventh year of that king's reign, Sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicestershire. His grandson William afterwards held the same offices in the seventeenth and thirty-second year of Elizabeth, being in the commission of the peace for the greater part

THE CHAIR IN WHICH KING HENRY VII WAS CROWNED UPON THE BATTLE-FIELD OF BOSWORTH, AUGUST 20, 1485. NOW (1906) AT MAXSTOKE CASTLE, WARWICKSHIRE, THE RESIDENCE OF MR. AND MRS. H. LINCOLN TANGYE

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of that queen's reign.[1] He was succeeded by Edward Boughton, his son and heir, who also held these offices for the greater part of King James's reign, having been sheriff in the fourth year of that monarch.

The venerable mill so picturesquely built upon the edge of the waters of the Avon, and the stables of the old Hall bearing date 1604, still exist in this tiny but historic hamlet; the original stables being now transformed into a wayside farm-house adorned with lovely roses and other flowers, around which lingers the ghost of the One-handed Boughton, and the memory of his murdered descendant, Sir Theodosius Boughton, who lost his life here in 1780. Ten years after this sad tragedy—the title having passed to Sir Charles Rouse, Bart., who succeeded to the title and assumed the name of Boughton, styling himself Sir Charles Rouse-Boughton—the main portion of the Hall was razed to the ground, and some of the ornamental bricks are said to have been used for constructing a beautiful waterfall which spans the river some two miles higher up and just below Newbold-on-Avon. Lady Boughton, bereaved of her only son in this sudden and terrible

[1] Queen Elizabeth was entertained at Lawford Hall when she was Princess Elizabeth by Sir William Boughton, Bart.

manner, sought solace for her grief in distant scenes, and unfortunately allowed the family lawyer to purchase the site of the old and venerable mansion-house and demesne lands during the absence of the family. Near here, and still on the banks of the Avon about a quarter of a mile below, were the famous King's Newnham Baths, so celebrated in the bygone days for the cure of rheumatism and gout. In the year 1582, Walter Bailey, M.D., Physician to Queen Elizabeth, gave to the world a treatise setting forth their value, but alas! these too with the lapse of ages have now disappeared from view.

If the ghost of the One-handed Boughton (mentioned before) does at times revisit the haunts it once held dear, it finds the characteristics of the township little altered. There are the same undulating meadows, the same purling streamlets and majestic trees in the hedgerows and winding lanes; although it must mourn to see the demolition of time, as it finds perchance the venerable home of its ancestors no more. What pent-up feelings must outburst, as it perceives, too, that the very soil so beloved in those early days when it was in the flesh, and whereon its rolling chariot and prancing greys had moved so nobly, has passed into other hands; that the very stones which composed the

once familiar outline of the Boughtons' ancestral home have been removed or demolished! What a mixture of sorrow and remorse! What sensitive reflections of high family pride must be excited as the tale is unfolded of the fatal laurel-water tragedy!

We can well imagine the feelings such a visit would produce in the breast of a highly nurtured 'Esquire' of the days of the Tudors. To those sterling qualities, that fine blending of the military with the philosophic character, with the proud bearing of the knight of the shire, would be united the self-restraint derived from the tournament. A spirit, once the tenant of such a man, could ill brook the wreck that time has made; it would be uneasy; a restless anxiety would supersede the calm of contemplation; and the pent-up affections would pour themselves out in a long lament. These thoughts would doubtless suggest to the past owners of this lordship—whose ashes now lie in the vault in Newbold-on-Avon Church—could they revisit the scene of their nativity, many strange reflections; with scarcely less sadness than can the descendants of this venerable house still with us contemplate the ruthless destruction of the 'cradle of their clan'. With all the pleasures of human life there is mingled some sorrow or regret. A sense of imperfection

tinges everything. A sense of instability pervades everything. The more educated one becomes, the greater the sense of appreciation; and to this must be added innumerable regrets. The mental horizon is widened, but to the broadening influence is added sympathies outside our own direct path. We thus become associated with a wider circle; our kinship passes from the narrow grooves to our fellow beings. It is through this influence of culture that the man of refined habits enjoys the fields, the wooded slopes, the ancestral homes of England, generally as much, and not infrequently more than the living owner. The artist and historian, if he visit them only once or twice in a lifetime, is enchanted for the few brief hours. All the richest treasures of the past are there for his inspection. He hears the recital of heroic deeds, of gallant episodes from the golden age of chivalry. The whole picture glows with life; the living touches appear. And to all this the accomplished visitor brings the records of a lifetime to verify this picture and that curio, to trace the genealogies and to marshal the facts of the leading annals of the house.

Here at Little Lawford we pine over the past. There is no knight of the shire resident to welcome the local antiquary or priest to his house. The

LITTLE LAWFORD HALL. RAZED TO THE GROUND AFTER THE MURDER OF SIR THEODOSIUS BOUGHTON, BART., 1784

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beautiful chapel that used to be so much admired, the scene of many a holy office, has disappeared. The ancient Hall in which Sir William Boughton, Bart., welcomed in good old Warwickshire style his great friend and neighbour, the Right Honourable Joseph Addison, that great master of English literature, Secretary of State, two centuries ago, is likewise gone. The touches, too, of nature which impart life to the picture have for the most part faded from direct connexion with the scene. The dry bones of history only survive to charm the student, but the living link is severed; and that continuity of sequence which confers dignity even upon conventional forms is here, alas! for ever dispelled. The venerable family who lived here on the banks of the Avon, for so many centuries, have a thousand claims on the gratitude of posterity. Founders of schools, patrons of advowsons, bequeathers of charities, their names are writ in gold across the pages of Renaissance and Hanoverian times;—essentially local men, filling the various offices of their counties, knights of the shire—or as we now designate their successors, members of Parliament—chairmen of quarter sessions, justices of the peace, county squires, and old-world landlords.

Such, through more than forty generations, were the elder branch of the Boughtons. Their bodies are lying in peace within the shades of many parish churches of the neighbourhood—Newbold-on-Avon, Dunchurch, Bilton and King's Newnham, Brownsover, &c. Lawford Hall was once their home. Along the Avon valley, the spirit of the quaint tales of the One-handed Boughton still lingers. Causton, once the seat of a branch of this family, yet retains some unexplained mysterious sounds, which are said to be caused by the ghost of one of its former owners. Quaint as these stories are, they doubtless contain some truth. The mystery of the past comes over the most stout-hearted at times, 'a stillness as of eve' seems to steep the soul in love, as the mind revels in its wanderings through the mazes of history.

LEGENDS OF WARWICKSHIRE, INCLUDING THE ONE-HANDED BOUGHTON, OR THE GHOST STORY OF LAWFORD HALL.

England is famous for its ancient legends, and almost every county can tell the story of its own particular ghost, and amongst these Warwickshire is not deficient. Long Compton tells of St. Augustine's calling back to earthly existence the spirit of

one who had been long dead. Dunchurch, the old coaching centre, recalls how Guy, Earl of Warwick (who lived in the time of King Athelstan, if record speaks truly), amongst other noble deeds, fought and slew the 'Dun Cow', whose body measured, so I have been told, some eighteen feet long, and the ribs of this monster were by the command of the king preserved at Warwick Castle. The site of the combat is well known, and I could point out the 'Dun Cow Thicket' even now, about half a mile from Dunchurch. In my schooldays Mr. Matthew Bloxam, that noted antiquarian of his day, used proudly to exhibit to our view 'the veritable blade-bone', as he termed it, of this wonderful creature, although he told us that he could only trace the romance of this mythical hero to the fourteenth century. He also traced the legend of that noble-minded lady, the Countess Godiva, to about the same period, although the lady really lived in the reign of Edward the Confessor, the early half of the eleventh century. The story of 'Peeping Tom', whose eyes are said to have dropped out of his head, did not appear in the accounts of the scene earlier than the reign of Charles II.; his effigy, still to be seen adorning the King's Head at Coventry, carved as clad in armour,

was not set up until the reign of Henry VII. How well do I remember, when I first beheld it there in the days of my childhood, some forty years ago, the thoughts that flashed across my mind as I listened to the legend and heard of the good deeds of Lady Godiva, who, when the mural tax for fortifying the city was levied and became a burden sore and grievous to be borne by the inhabitants, pleaded on their behalf to her lord, and was met with the reply, 'It is all very well to weep and entreat, but you would not yourself make any personal sacrifice for them; if, however, you are prepared to ride naked through every street of the city, the tax shall be remitted.' Delighted at the thought of suffering instead of her people, she consented and duly performed the task, when all the citizens withdrew to their houses and, turning their faces to the wall, pulled down the blinds. But 'Tom', more curious than the rest of his fellow citizens, peeped out of the window, and his eyes immediately dropped out of his head, and his effigy remains to tell the tale to this day.

Sir William Dugdale seems not to have heard of the legend of Lawford Hall, but Samuel Ireland, in his book published in 1795, records the story, which runs thus:—'Approaching the grounds where Lawford

Hall, the seat of the Boughtons, formerly stood, we pass the spot on which Dugdale says "there was antiently a capital messuage and divers cottages belonging to the monks of Pipewell Abbey". Nothing remains of these buildings at present but a large corn mill, on the bank of the river; which is directly opposite to the site of ground on which Lawford Hall stood till the year 1784, when it was razed to the ground by Sir Charles Rouse-Boughton, Bart. (who on the death of Sir Theodosius Boughton, Bart., succeeded to the title and the demesne lands, but not to the family estates). No part is standing of this ancient seat but its stabling, which is now applied to the purposes of a farm-house, and bears the date 1604. In Lawford Hall, I am told, a room was preserved as the bed-chamber of an ancestor of the family, who, in the time of Elizabeth, having lost an arm, went afterwards by the appellation of One-handed Boughton. After his death the room was reported to be haunted, and as such many attempts were made to sleep in it, but in vain; and such is the credulity of the common people, that it was with difficulty any labourer could be prevailed upon to assist in pulling it down. The ghost of the one-handed ancestor, I was told by persons on the spot, had been frequently seen,

by their fathers, driving across the neighbouring grounds in a coach and six; and with the same air of confidence I was informed that within the past century (viz. eighteenth century) his perturbed spirit had been laid by a numerous body of the clergy, who conjured it into a phial, and threw it into a marl pit opposite the house. Nor does the family seem to have been exempt from a similar superstition and belief in ghosts, for it is told of the late Sir Theodosius Boughton's father, that being visited by his neighbour the late Sir Francis Skipwith, Bart., and walking together near the marl pit, Sir Francis observed that he thought there must be many fish in that pond, and that he should be glad to try it; to which Sir Edward Boughton gravely replied, "No, that I cannot consent to, for the spirit of my ancestor, the One-handed Boughton, lies there."'

The following extracts I have made from Bloxam's account of the above legend:—'Upwards of twenty years ago (i.e. about the year 1860) I conversed with an ancient inhabitant of Lawford, John Watts, who had resided in the neighbourhood of Lawford Hall in early youth, and according to his account the ghost of One-handed Boughton frequented Causton Hall, the remains of which were pulled down between 1800 and 1810, the site being later

occupied by Causton Lodge, the residence of Lady John Scott; it was laid in a pond there by a Dr. Snow. In his early days this John Watts was near Lawford Hall, talking to an old man, one Aaron Essex, who pointed out to him what he said was the carriage of the ghost of One-handed Boughton, telling him that he could see both Boughton and his carriage and horses. Watts had a strong and retentive memory, and according to him it was the ghost of Sir Edward Boughton which frequented Lawford Hall. My other informant was John Wolf, whose mother lived at King's Newnham and worked at Lawford Hall. He often went there in the evenings to wait for her, and well remembered the housekeeper saying to her, "Esther, you come and take your supper and begone; Boughton will be here before you are off the ground, and you wouldn't like to see him." One-handed Boughton had a bedroom to himself. The girl would not make the bed unless the housekeeper stood by. He remembered the coachman, gardener, and footman from Lawford Hall coming to his father to be shaved. One of them said, "I went to Long Lawford wake after they (meaning the family) were gone to bed. I got back again about one, and I met One-handed Boughton just atop of the stairs: he came by me." One evening

whilst John Wolf was sitting in his mother's house at King's Newnham, within a mile of Lawford Hall, a neighbour came in and said, "I've just seen One-handed Boughton; I saw his coach coming along the road, and I opened the gate" (up to quite recently the author remembers a gate in the road where the division is between Little Lawford and King's Newnham), "but the coach and horses flew over the gate." John Wolf also said "that the smack of a whip was heard when One-handed Boughton approached, and he was dressed in scarlet with a hunting cap on his head. And one night twelve of the neighbouring clergy assembled to lay the ghost. The lighted candles of eleven of them went out, but Parson Hall's candle continued lighted and he laid the ghost in a pit in the field to the east of Lawford Hall, but he was to have two hours every night".' In the seventeenth century many of the noblemen and knights of the shires had their coaches drawn by six horses, as the roads were very heavy. The Warwickshire coach, which ran from Coleshill to London, occupied four days on the journey. I find from the award of the parish of Harborough Magna, dated 1754, that the Rev. Hall was the parson or Rector at that time. So that we may safely say that it was he who laid the ghost (as stated above)

about the middle of the seventeenth century, probably using the form for exorcising as given in *Antiquitates Vulgares*, published at Newcastle, 1725, taken from the more ancient work *Practica Exorcistarum F. Valerii Polidori Palavii ad daemones et maleficia de Christi fidelibus expellendum*, 12mo, Venet. 1606.

Early in the nineteenth century a glass bottle of the Queen Anne period was discovered in the marl pit near the site of Lawford Hall, where the ghost of One-handed Boughton was laid by Parson Hall. The bottle was carefully sealed and evidently contained some ghostly substance. It was taken to Allesley Ward-Boughton-Leigh, Esq., of Brownsover Hall, a descendant of the Boughtons of Lawford Hall, and the author of these Memoirs often saw it at Brownsover, and also at Rugby, where it was exhibited on more than one occasion, and interested many of the older inhabitants of our villages, recalling the traditionary recollections of earlier days.

CHAPTER V

KING'S NEWNHAM

Several relics of ancient Britons have been found in this once famous parish. In the bygone days it belonged to various kings of England, as is evident from the 'Quo warranto Roll' of 13 Edw. I, where the king's attorney alleges that Richard I was seized thereof. But at the time of the enclosure it was reduced to the manor house and a small number of inhabitants. The Canons of Kenilworth, however, enjoyed the allowance of a court leet here and many other privileges, until the dissolution of the monasteries. It continued in the hands of the Crown until the seventh year of Edward VI, when it was granted to John, Duke of Northumberland, and his heirs, from whom it descended to Sir Thomas Leigh, Knt. The latter was also patron of the church and presented to the vicarage in the first year of Elizabeth's reign. He afterwards settled this manor, with the advowson of the church and

other property here, upon his younger son William. This William Leigh became a knight; he enclosed the estate, and left it to his son and heir, Sir Francis Leigh, who was created a baronet, Dec. 24, 1618, 16 Jac. I, and afterwards made Lord Dunsmore in 1628, and advanced to the title of Earl of Chichester in 1644. He died in 1653.

There was here formerly a celebrated bath, situated on the bank of the river, to which water was conveyed from a chalybeate spring about a mile distant, impregnated with alum, and very efficacious in scorbutic complaints and in healing fresh wounds.

The parish registers date from 1573, but they were sadly mutilated during the trial connected with the Leigh estates, and unfortunately there is no record of the name of the patron-saint of the now demolished sacred edifice.

A roofless lonely tower still marks the spot
Where once the church of Newnham Regis stood;
The ivy, now her sole remaining friend,
With tenderness her agèd arms around
Still closely clings.
In days of yore
That shapeless ruin was the house of God,
Whose echoing peal of far-resounding bells,
Floating along fair Arden's flow'ry stream,
Summoned with merry notes each Sabbath day
Peasant and peer to mingle in her aisles.
. . . . . .

Where anciently fair Newnham's chancel stood
Repos'd the ashes of a noble race,
The good Earl Chichester, brave Francis Leigh.

. . . . . .

Shades of the Leighs! of those brave knights of old
Who won their golden spurs on Crecy's plain[1],
Or for the true Cross died in holy land.

A. Boughton-Leigh.

So nobly situated in the resplendent and fertile valley of the old Forest of Arden, through which the historic Avon flows, within easy reach of Rugby —about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles NW. by N., and joining Little Lawford on the NW.—is one of those lovely peaceful spots almost beyond description. The old tower of the church bedecked with ivy clinging to the worn-out masonry is indeed its 'sole remaining joy'—all that is left of what was once a beautiful house of God. The interior had originally been ornamented by the brush of no less a hand than Jacob Jordaens, the celebrated pupil of Rubens. The nave and chancel perished in 1794. Beneath the ruins of the chancel were discovered, in August, 1852, in remarkable preservation, the bodies of three members of the Leigh family. The inscription on the lid of the first leaden coffin bore

[1] Sir Piers Leigh bore the standard of Edward the Black Prince at the battle of Crecy, and his eldest son, Sir Peter Leigh, was created a knight banneret by Henry V, and slain at the battle of Agincourt.

THE OLD TOWER OF THE CHURCH AT KING'S NEWNHAM

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these words: 'Here lyeth the body of Francis Leigh, Earle of Chichester and Lord Dunsmore; who was the happiest man living so long as his deare wife the Lady Audrey, Countess of Chichester and Lady Dunsmore, lived; who was the eldest daughter of John Lord Buteler of Bramfield, and the best of wives and women; she died the 16th of September, 1652, since which time he never had the least content, joye or comfort, till now that he lyeth by her againe, with whose Soule he hopes by the merit and Passion of Christ Jesus he shall rejoice for ever. He dyed on the 21st of December, 1653.'

By the side of this coffin was discovered, in making excavations on the site of the chancel at the same date, another also of massive lead, which contained the embalmed body of a most beautiful girl, 'the Lady Audrey Leigh,' the daughter of the above-named Earl and Countess of Chichester. When the coffins were opened in the presence of the late Rev. Theodosius Egerton B. W.-Boughton-Leigh and Allesley W.-Boughton-Leigh, Esq. (the lineal descendants) the bodies were found to be in a perfect state of preservation, but on being exposed to the air for a short time fell into dust.

There lay the goodly Earl in sweet repose,
The smile of hope still ling'ring o'er his lips,
His fond fair daughter sleeping by his side;
The delicate warm tints of earliest youth
Bloom on her cheek, as seemingly in doubt
The breath of life had yet for ever fled.
Paint! quickly paint! for now remorseless Death
Triumphantly reclaims his lingering prey,
And all is dust.

A. Boughton-Leigh.

In 44 Elizabeth, 1602, John Leigh, Esq. (son of Sir Thomas Leigh of Stoneleigh, Knt.), Francis Leigh, Esq., afterwards Knt. (son of Sir William Leigh of Newnham Regis), and Richard Boughton of Long Lawford, Esq., were appointed Trustees of Rugby School; and Sir Francis Leigh (Baronet 1618, Baron Dunsmore 1618, and Earl of Chichester 1644) and Thomas Leigh (afterwards Knt. of Stoneleigh, 1st Baron Leigh 1643) were appointed Trustees by decree of the Court of Chancery, 1614. Thomas Boughton of Bilton, Esq., was appointed by order of the Court, 7 Charles I, 1632. Also among the early Trustees were Charles Leigh, of Leighton in the county of Bedfordshire, Esq., son of Sir Thomas Leigh of Stoneleigh, 1667; Thomas Leigh, Esq., 1670, afterwards 2nd Lord Leigh of Stoneleigh; Sir John Bridgeman, Bart., 1686; and Edward Boughton of Cawston, Esq., 1706. Sir Francis Leigh

was great-grandson of Sir Thomas Leigh of Stoneleigh (Lord Mayor of London in 1558). He appears to have been considered chief amongst the trustees. He was Captain of the Band of Gentlemen Pensioners, and a warm adherent of the king in the civil wars of the seventeenth century, and was frequently employed as one of the commissioners on the part of the Crown to treat with the Parliamentary commissioners; and he was permitted after the king's death, in consequence, to hold his estate without compounding for it, as in the case of other gentry of Warwickshire who espoused the king's cause. He was trustee of Rugby School for thirty-nine years. In the year 1642 the then Rector of Rugby and several of the leading inhabitants of that town, who favoured the cause of the Parliament, petitioned Francis, Lord Dunsmore, as principal trustee of the School, in favour of one Edward Clarke as head master in succession to William Greene, and against the appointment of Ralph Pearce, then Vicar of Long Itchington. The petition was signed, first by Richard Elborowe (whose son founded the Elborowe schools in Rugby), and twenty-one other signatories, including the Rector's (James Nalton) and the two churchwardens' (Moyses Cowley and Richard Hasby), and the mark

O of James Coles, who apparently could not write. It is too long to quote in its entirety, but the following extracts seem worthy of mention:—

'To the Right Honorble Francis Lord Dunsmore. The humble Peticon of the Inhabitants of Rugby Sheweth, that whereas one Lawrence Sheriff, out of his devocon to learning, about 70^{ty} years since founded a free Grammar Schoole in Rugby . . . and made two feoffees, and the heirs of the surviving feoffee defrauded the trust . . . and then 12 feoffees were named whereoff yor. worthy father was one, all wch. feoffees (Sir Thomas Leigh, Kte. and Baronet, and Mr. Roger Fielding, now Sir Roger, excepted) are since dead . . . your peticoners and the inhabitants of Rugby, consisting of nyne score familys (according to their accustomed right) made choyce of one Edward Clarke, M^{r}. of Arts; and the neighbog. townes who are to have benefit as well as yor. peticoners by the said Schoole well knowing him, gave their hands for him . . . unto yor. Honor and Sir Thomas Leigh and the heires of the said feoffees . . . to admit and approve of the said Clarke to have the place after Mr. Greene. . . .

'Notwithstanding all wch. the said Sr. Roger of himself opposing them all, came to Rugby . . . and endeavoured to place one in opposition to this

towne of Rugby and townes adjacent; & all the Honorble and noble persons interested therein . . . did labor to bring in one Mr. Pierce against all their likenings for whose benefit the said schoole was principally founded . . . and for that the said Pierce was poor and hadd many children, who might charge the towne and hadd a benefice . . . and Clarke hadd then no preferment . . . yet the said Sr. Roger and the said Pierce to inquiett yor. peticoners . . . being instigated by one Mr. Bassett . . . who reporte hee hath spent 80£ in the Busyness & will place Pierce in the said Schoole. . . .

'Your Lordpps Peticoners having found yor. Honor to bee protector of the oppressed &c. . . . all wch. your peticoners most humblie intreat your Honour &c.'

We have no mention of any answer being made, but the petition was not granted, and Mr. Ralph Pierce was appointed head master, and remained in that position until his death in 1652, and he has left no record of any events that may have happened during his ten years' mastership, neither do we find that any of his 'many children' (as feared by the petitioners) became chargeable to the parish.

CHAPTER VI

HARBOROUGH MAGNA

We come now to the parish of Harborough Magna or Great Harborough, formerly spelt Harborow, bordered on the SW. by the Swift. We find that Ric. Forestarius held here four hides and a half in the Conqueror's time, which were then valued at twenty shillings, of which four thegns' free services went to the king. In the time of Edward the Confessor there was a resident priest, which clearly proves that there was a church here even in those early days. There was also, at that time, a mill rated at fifteen pence, and the name of the place is written Herdeberge, probably from the elevated situation, and partly from the herds of cattle kept upon the common before the Enclosure Act of 1755; the old English word *berg* signifying a hill. In course of time a family took their surname from the village, and possessed most of the lands. It was a common practice for the lord of the manor in the Middle Ages to either take his own name from, or give his own name to, the parish in which he dwelt. There are here certain indistinct earthworks in the fields south of the church, pointing to the probable occupancy of this place by an

HARBOROUGH MAGNA CHURCH

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early British tribe anterior to the Roman invasion. These settlements, however, are now almost obliterated by the cultivation of successive owners of the soil. The late Mr. M. H. Bloxam (whose brother Andrew was Rector here from 1870 to 1878) considered that these remains were indications of 'a fortified oppidum of the tribe of the Coritani'. A few years ago an ancient vault was discovered not far from the surface, in the Rectory garden, which is in close proximity to the old churchyard, now closed by Act of Parliament July 25, 1861.

We find in Henry II's time that the family of Geoffrey de Langley had become possessed of the property which formerly belonged to the Herdeberges, together with the advowson of the church; for at this period Geoffrey de Langley gave part thereof to the monks of Combe, and his grandson sold to them all the remainder of his possessions here, reserving only the advowson of the church.

In the year 1291 (19 Edward I) the church, dedicated to All Saints, was valued at vii marks and a half; but in 26 Henry VIII at xiv*l.* xiii*s.*, in addition to ix*s.* vi*d.* allowed for procurations and synodals. The church and chancel were restored and reseated by the Rev. Egerton Ward-Boughton-Leigh, M.A., in 1869, to whose memory the brass lectern was presented by his widow and children in the year

1880. The organ, by Walker, and the organ chamber and choir vestry, with a finely carved oak screen, were added by the present Rector in 1902. There is also a beautiful oak screen at the west entrance, bearing the following inscription: 'To the glory of God and ever-loving remembrance of the Rev. Theodosius Cotterell Henry Ward-Boughton-Leigh, successively Rector of Bradfield-Combust, Suffolk, Etchingham, Sussex, and Rodmersham, Kent. Departed this life on December 14, 1897, aged 43 years, and is buried at Cuckfield, Sussex. Erected by his brother, the Rector of this parish, 1905.' There are two stained glass windows. The one in the West wall of the tower was inserted in 1854 to the memory of Sir Grey Skipwith, Bart., who had been a true benefactor to the parish during his lifetime, presenting the cemetery and the site for the parochial school and playground, enclosing them with a wall and handsome iron fence. The window in the East end of the chancel was inserted by the Rev. Andrew Bloxam in 1875: it has three lights representing the Ascension. There are three good bells, but they bear no inscription. The advowson appears to have come into the possession of the Boughtons about 1557. On Dec. 21, 1629, Thomas Basset, acting under the will of William Boughton, of Lawford Hall (who

died during that year, and was buried at Newbold-on-Avon), presented his own son, Thomas Basset, to the living.

In the ancient windows of the church there were the arms of the former residents of the parish, the Langleys, Odingsells, Hullys, Hastings, Earl of Pembroke.

Patrons.	Incumbents.
D. John de Langford, miles	Robert de Farendon, Jan. 13, 1305. Adam de Sadyngton, Pbr. March 5, 1335.
D. Will. de Caverswell, miles	Will. de Thornton, Cap. March, 1336.
Joh. Trills, Dominus de Pinlye	Hen. Catewayte, Pbr. August 6, 1361.
Fulco Bermyncham, miles Procur. generalis Baldw. Frevil, miles	Simon de Eston, Pbr. March 3, 1366.
Adam de Peshale, miles	Will. Laycheser, Jan. 8, 1404. Will. Smyth, Nov. 8, 1417.
Thomas de Ferrers, ar. Rog. Aston, miles Hugo Willoughby, ar.	Thos. Roxson, August 8, 1421.
Rich. Bingham, Rob. Aston, ar.	John Stodlay, Nov. 20, 1450.
Thos. Ferrers, ar.	Tho. Rogers, Oct. 18, 1458.
Tho. Ferrers, miles Will. Wirley et alii ex concess. Humfr. Ferrers de Tamworth, miles	D. John Paynell, May, 1497. Anselmus Seyll, Jan. 18, 1540.
Joh: Ferrers	Franc. Kymberley, June 16, 1557.
Tho. Basset de Brownsover ex conc. Will. Boughton de Lawford	Tho. Basset fil. dicti Thomae, Dec. 21, 1629.

Patrons.	Incumbents.
Sir William Boughton, Bart., de Lawford Hall	— Hallawes, Dec. 27, 1687.
Sir William Boughton, Bart., de Lawford Hall	— Bromwich, March 28, 1698.
Sir William Boughton, Bart., de Lawford Hall	— Blake, August 22, 1707.
Sir William Boughton, Bart., de Lawford Hall	Henry Holyoak, 1712–31.
Lady Anna Maria Boughton	Thomas Hall was Rector at this time, Sept. 1, 1772.
Lady Anna Maria Boughton	Peers Newsam, March 10, 1786.
Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart	W. Hanbury, 1814.
John Ward-Boughton-Leigh	Egerton B. W.-Boughton-Leigh, Feb., 1868.
E. Allesley W.-Boughton-Leigh	Andrew Bloxam, 1870.
E. Allesley W.-Boughton-Leigh	Richard Wood, 1878.
E. Allesley W.-Boughton-Leigh	Bridgeman G. F. C. W.-Boughton-Leigh, Easter, 1888.

Harborough Magna is beautifully situated upon rising ground $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles north of Rugby, and is bounded on the south by Harborough Parva, Little Lawford and Cosford on the south-east, and Cathiron on the south-west—all of which hamlets are in the parish of Newbold-on-Avon—Easenhall on the north-west in the parish of Monks Kirby, Pailton in the same parish on the north, and Churchover on the east. The famous head master of Rugby School, Dr. Holyoak, celebrated for his charitable actions, was Rector of this parish during the last nineteen years of his life, from 1712 to 1731. The late Dr. Light-

foot, afterwards Bishop of Durham, and one of the most learned divines of his day, was numbered amongst the curates here during the long interregnum, when W. Hanbury filled the rectorial office without residing in the parish, from 1814 to 1868. In the register we find the following:—'August 6, 1854, William Meadows, Stoneleigh, aged 73, buried by Joseph B. Lightfoot, Off. Minister.' Far be it from me to attempt to give an outline of this great man's life here, but as one who had the privilege of attending his Divinity Lectures at Trinity College, Cambridge, which I recall with genuine pleasure, I know him to have been the most consummate of tutors, and I doubt not that whilst resident at Harborough Magna, the very atmosphere was tinged by his lofty and moral intellect. He would inspire all around him with hope that maketh not ashamed without allowing any to despair.

The Parish Register commences in 1540, which was only two years after it was ordered to be kept, and it contains a few entries of the Boughton family, among which we may mention: '1760. Theodosius Edward Allesley, son of Sir Edward Boughton, Bart., by Lady Dame Anna Maria Boughton his wife; was born on the third of August and privately baptized the next morning by the Rev.

Mr. Hall, Rector of Great Harborough, and on the 15th day of September following he was publicly received into the congregation at Sir Edward's Consecrated Chapel at Lawford Hall, the Right Honourable Lord Craven, Sir Charles Shuckburgh, Bart., and Lady Ursula Skipwith, being Sponsors.'[1]

Harborough Magna is famous in the annals of Rugby School, and remembered by all Old Rugbeians for the celebrated School Run that bears its name. The boys run through the village, entering the churchyard by the west gate, and pass along leaving it by the south-east gate. I find, too, that Royalty has visited the township. For if legend be true Princess Elizabeth (afterwards Good Queen Bess) attended divine worship here during her visit to Sir William Boughton, Bart., at Lawford Hall. And on October 19, 1839, Queen Adelaide came on a visit to 'Her Majesty's Master of the Horse' at Newnham Paddox, and drove through the village of Harborough Magna, with her magnificent *cortège*

[1] This entry refers to Sir Theodosius Boughton, Bart., who was poisoned in the year 1780, at Lawford Hall, with laurel-leaf essence, and buried at Newbold-on-Avon about a fortnight afterwards. His body was exhumed from the family vault in the church and placed on the high tomb on the south side of the church (the Onelys'), and an inquest held there. The body was afterwards reverently re-buried in the church. A boy from Rugby School, who became renowned amongst O.R.'s, Sir Henry Halford, President of the College of Physicians, watched the proceedings.

of three carriages drawn by four prancing greys, and a carriage and pair with outriders, on her way to the School at Rugby. After witnessing a football match which the boys were playing in the close at the time, and in which she took great interest, she returned through Great Harborough to the seat of the Earl of Denbigh. May we not hope that history will yet repeat itself, and afford us the opportunity of welcoming our beloved King Edward VII, accompanied by his gracious consort, our Queen Alexandra!—God bless them.

In going back some two hundred years earlier, we find that Charles I passed through this township on horseback in August, 1642, accompanied by some of his lords. This event took place shortly after one of those disastrous skirmishes in the neighbourhood, ere he sped on his way to Nottingham, there to set up his Royal Standard. We know that the neighbouring town was unfriendly to his crown, and that he would consequently be more inclined to rest here than at Rugby or Dunchurch.

The following account appeared in the *Rugby Gazette and Midland Times* for April 18, 1903:—

'Harborough Magna, opening of the new Organ Chamber and Choir Vestry.—Last Sunday was Easter Day. Hearing that the new organ chamber and

choir vestry of Harborough Magna Church were to be opened that day, I proceeded on a visit to that village. It has been said every village has a history; every parish has been associated with at least some one person whose memory sheds lustre upon its reminiscences. And isolated as Harborough Magna appears to be to the casual tourist, great names in local annals are entwined in its history of a thousand years. Its small and simple church, whose very chasteness of outline serves to render it more in keeping with the simple life of the sons of toil—whose homes nestle beneath its shade—stands forth to-day as the outward sign of that profound reverence which our fathers paid to the lessons of Christian teaching. Before the Norman Conquest the church was founded and endowed. Slowly as the centuries rolled onward, bringing with them increased perception for art and culture, one humble structure after another rose into being. The Norman edifice gave way to the craftsmen of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; consequently to-day the edifice stands forth chiefly as a simple unaffected example of those later ages, despoiled doubtless of much of its pre-Reformation internal decoration—despoiled of its heraldic stained glass, its recumbent figures, its chantry altars, its rood-screen, and other sym-

bolical accessories which constituted the artistic setting of mediaeval church life.

'As I drew near I thought of Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart., who once preached under yonder tree. I thought of the names of one or two old rectors who had in their generation presided as head masters of that famous institution at Rugby, "The Free School of Lawrence Sheriff, Grocer," as the Founder authorized by his Will that school to be called. I thought, too, of a former curate of this parish who rose to the episcopal chair of Durham—the late Bishop Lightfoot. I thought of that eminent botanist, the late Rev. Andrew Bloxam, brother of the still greater antiquary. I reflected on the vast host of unnumbered rugged sons of toil—each sleeping in his narrow bed—who have left no memorial behind them, and whose names are recorded, only very imperfectly, on the fading pages of a fragmentary parish register. While I mused on the Easter Day of Time, I thought of the holy Easter Day of Eternity—of that day when, as our Church teaches, we shall all be contemporaries and make our appearances together.

'As I approached the venerable pile and entered the west door, the white-robed choir in their vestments were slowly passing along. I could not help the vision of the contrast of this simple village

choir, in my own mind, with the memory which the mother cathedral church of Worcester presents on a solemn day. Here, I thought, in a remote corner of that extensive diocese, the choral strains of Easter-tide rose as fervent as in the proud cathedral aisle. The whole scene was rich in a mingled harmony of sweet music and tender associations. The stately walk of the choristers (ten men and twelve boys), in their cassocks and surplices, was as dignified as you find in many a large town. The Rector, the Rev. Bridgeman Boughton-Leigh, M.A., and his curate followed, singing one of those fine old Easter hymns which have thrilled the hearts of generations of Christians. The service was admirably rendered, the organ being effectively played by Mr. Langley Bett.

'In the afternoon there was a flower service for the children, who were not forgotten by their Rector. After each child had presented its offering of flowers, the Rector proceeded to give an excellent address, in which he exhorted the choir "to endeavour to put on the robes of righteousness. They should try to make themselves better than they had hitherto been: more earnest in their prayers; more thoughtful for others; more gentle and Christ-like. The white robes in which they were clothed should be to them an outward sign of purity within".

'But these services, inspiring and stimulating as they were, were crowned by the quiet, reverent lessons of Evensong. The whole glories of Eastertide seemed to swell forth in one harmonious triumph of thanksgiving to the risen Saviour. The Rector preached, again, from Joel ii. 26, to a crowded congregation (amongst whom were many friends from Newbold). He reminded his hearers that "fifteen years ago that day he began his ministry amongst them as their Rector. In looking back on those chequered years how many changes had the seasons wrought? How many who worshipped in that sacred temple with them had been gathered by the angels and laid to rest within the shadow of those walls! How, too, had that church, in its long life of centuries, been the centre of the most cherished hopes of their parish life; how it had gradually been beautified by the loving care of many who had left them. The organ chamber and choir vestry had been built; the organ had been bought and paid for; the lectern of brass had been presented to the church; the carved oak screen would be there to testify, long after they themselves had been laid to rest, of what they had assisted in doing in their generation. Other suitable ornaments to the church had been added, the font placed in its proper position immediately on entering the west door of the

church; and where, hitherto, there had been no choir at all, now they could thank God together with the assistance of as efficient a choir as any church need wish to possess. The hearts of all present must throb with joy and gratitude to God for His mercies vouchsafed to them".

'The lessons at each of the services were very impressively read by the Rector's brother, Cotterell Egerton W.-Boughton-Leigh, Esq., the Curate assisting the Rector with the prayers. Such an improvement in the structural arrangement of the church must have caused the Rector great labour and anxiety during the past year while it has been in progress, and when we take into consideration that he is Chairman of the Parish Councils of Newbold-on-Avon and Harborough Magna, and sole manager of their parochial schools, District Councillor and Guardian for Newbold-on-Avon, and a manager of the Board School there and also at Long Lawford, and the multiplicity of difficulties which such offices bring in their train, we can but express our gratitude the more when we see the House of God so earnestly cared for—that to his mind all secular affairs are as nothing compared to that higher duty whereunto he was called when he was instituted to the Rectory of Harborough Magna fifteen years ago.—RAMBLER.'

THE STUMP OF THE ELM-TREE AS IT APPEARS TO-DAY (1906), WITH SIR EGERTON LEIGH'S ELDEST SURVIVING GREAT-GRANDSON STANDING BENEATH ITS SHADE

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CHAPTER VII

HARBOROUGH PARVA

The old Hall (now demolished) at Harborough Parva, which joins this parish on the south, was once famous as the residence of a branch of the Leigh family. This ancient building was surrounded by beautiful trees and sloping gardens, standing as it did upon the gentle hill which commands the extensive view across the valley towards Newbold-on-Avon. It was here, at Harborough Parva, that Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart., used to preach Sunday after Sunday, towards the close of the eighteenth century, under one of the fine elms, which, although struck by lightning, has sprung forth again, and lives and flourishes to-day to mark the spot where the noble baronet gathered around him a devoted flock. Sir Egerton's congregation could frequently be reckoned by the thousand; ministers and laymen flocking from the neighbouring towns and villages to hear him. He was rightly known as 'the preaching Baronet'.

In the year 1809 he wrote a short address under the title of 'The Answer of God: *To the Baptized Church of Christ at Rugby*', a few extracts from which may be appropriately reproduced here:—

'Sir Egerton Leigh, To the Baptized Church of Christ at Rugby. Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.—The little book I herewith present to you, I have written purposely for you, and as you believe the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God, your minds are duly prepared to receive it; the answers being the answers of God. The directions for using it are: in all your meetings with each other, especially on a Lord's day, instead of idle conversation, have your book with you and exercise each other's memory by asking the questions. Teach them to your children and neighbours. Use them at your family devotions, and use them in secret, in all cases praying, that the Lord may enlighten your understandings by the Holy Spirit that you may understand the Scriptures, and that His Holy Spirit may influence your hearts that you may love them. If you learn but one answer a day you will be daily gaining something of the Word of God. If you make a good use of this little book, I shall, as the Lord may enable me, proceed in my endeavours

to serve God and you in this way; as you will perceive that I could not, without making a very large collection of answers, have proceeded further in the first part. . . . Peace be to the brethren and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.—Amen.'

(Page 64, &c. 'On Baptism.')

'*Q.* Is Baptism an institution of Jesus Christ? and where in Scripture is it appointed to be administered?

'*A.* Jesus said, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

'*Q.* Did Jesus Christ, when in the flesh, set the example in Himself for all His followers as a righteous act?

'*A.* Jesus said, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.

'*Q.* Was Jesus Christ baptized by immersion?

'*A.* Jesus when He was baptized went straightway out of the water.

'*Q.* Does it appear from the mode of administer-

ing the institution by the immediate followers of Christ, that immersion was the institution?

'*A.* Philip took the Eunuch down into the water and he baptized him, and when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the Eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

'*Q.* Does it appear that immersion was the institution from metaphors used in Scripture to express it?

'*A.* We are buried with Him by Baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

'*Q.* Is the metaphor of burying in Baptism used in any other part of the Scriptures?

'*A.* Buried with Him in Baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the Faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead.

'*Q.* Are adults (that is, persons of sufficient age) to make a profession of their faith? And are they, only, the proper subjects of Baptism?

'*A.* As they went on their way, they came unto a certain water; and the Eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And

Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

'*Q.* But why not infant?

'*A.* If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest.

'*Q.* Are women, as well as men, proper subjects of Baptism?

'*A.* When they believed Philip concerning the Kingdom of God they were baptized, both men and women.'

I have in my possession the following letter of Sir Egerton Leigh to his daughter, which may prove interesting as illustrating his private character.

'Brownsover, 29th Sept. 1806.

'My dear Theodosia,

'You will perhaps think me long before I acknowledge the receipt of your last letter. I am happy to hear that the small token of remembrance, a brace of hares and the same number of partridges, arrived safe. Our new gamekeeper, Elkington, is at present a very bad shot, or I should have sent Mrs. Ogg more partridges, but he brings them in such small numbers that I cannot make the presents I wish to do.

'I am much pleased at your progressive improvement in writing. I have observed a difference in each letter. I promise myself from that instance of your attention to be agreeably surprised when we next meet.

'You acquaint me that you have the privilege of writing to your friends once a fortnight. I have no doubt of your improving that privilege. When you have acquired the art of expressing your thoughts as freely upon paper as in conversation, you will have the double advantage of making your friends happy in your communications when at a distance as well as when present. Young people are often anxious to correspond, but few consider the importance of writing correctly. Some few attain to the perfection of elegance. Too many content themselves with being able to write. The writing can hardly be read; the sentences so rudely constructed that they cannot be separated. The consequence most assuredly is a general vulgarity for want of a little thought. I freely own to you that with all the excuse that may be made for any person, I like to see pretty good writing; especially in a female. One word of advice. Whatever you do, do it as a thinking and not as a thoughtless person. Think whether you ought to write; think how you ought

to write; think why you ought to write; think what you ought to write; think of the possible importance of one thoughtless unguarded letter. The habit of thinking will never make you less free, friendly, or communicative than you ought to be, but it will save you from the disagreeable consequence of being more so. Above all things be very cautious to whom you write. A written paper may remain even when we are no more in this world.

'We passed the greatest part of last week at Mr. Ward's. Mrs. Ward desired me to give her best love to Miss Leigh. She wants us to spend two months in town together, but I do not think of it this winter. She says you could be with us on the Sundays. I want you to be very much improved and to have a desire of knowing all that is to be learned at Queen's Square. I know you have a capacity equal to an attainment of every accomplishment. Above all things be sure not to forget to seek for help, care, love and protection from your Father and my Father, your God and my God.

'There are enquiries perpetually after you. I give one general answer that you are well and happy—why, a kind temper must be happy.

'Your dear Mama unites with me in best love to you and a wish for the best of blessings to attend you.

'Pray present our compliments to Mrs. Ogg, and I am, dear Theodosia,

'Your affectionate Father,

'EGERTON LEIGH.'

The author also owns a cellaret that formerly belonged to Sir Egerton Leigh, bearing the inscription and date, 'Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart., Harborough Parva Hall, 1780.'

The family of which Sir Egerton Leigh was the eldest representative was seated at High Leigh in the county of Cheshire before the Norman Conquest. His father was Sir Egerton Leigh, Judge of the Admiralty and Attorney-General of South Carolina, and died at Charleston, North America, and was buried in the church of St. Philip in that city. He was a descendant of Sir Thomas Leigh, who was Master of the Mercers' Company in the city of London in 1554, 1558, and 1564, and who became Lord Mayor at the accession of Elizabeth in 1558. Sir Thomas Leigh presented to the above Company a silver cup, which is now the oldest and most precious piece of plate in their possession. It weighs nearly

sixty-six ounces. Sir John Watney tells us (as recorded by Mr. Thos. R. Way in his account of the ancient halls of the City guilds) that it is by tradition said to have belonged to the hospital of St. Thomas of Acon. It bears the plate-mark of the year 1499–1500, and may be described as a silver-gilt grace cup, with a cover 16 inches high and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The foot is supported on three pilgrim bottles. On the top of the cover is a maiden seated, with a unicorn in her lap, which bears the word 'Desyr' engraved on its side. On the panels of the boss are coats of arms in enamel; namely, the arms of the City of London, of Sir Thomas Leigh, of the Merchant Adventurers' Company, of the Merchants of the Staple, the Cross of St. George, and the arms of the Mercers' Company. On two bands round the cover and body of the cup are the following lines in gold and blue enamel:—

> To elect the Master of the Mercerie, hither am I sent,
> And by Sir Thomas Leigh for the same intent.

On the inside of the cover is engraved a double rose, and the cup and cover are stamped with a maiden's head. The cup was, no doubt, a good deal altered at or shortly before the time when it came into the hands of the Company.

During the period when Sir Thomas Leigh held the office of Lord Mayor of London a new era was opened out in the history of this country, and in the momentous and interesting events of the day Sir Thòmas, as the civic head, took no unimportant position. The reigns of two sister queens —the Roman Catholic Mary, and the Protestant Elizabeth—are connected in the year of his mayoralty, for Sir Thomas was elected but a few weeks before Mary closed her mortal career, being the sixth civic magistrate during her sovereignty and the first in the reign of Elizabeth. From the dismal spectacle of suffering faith and persecution we turn at this time to behold the dawn of religious liberty;—so great a change, and so suddenly wrought by the Supreme Dispenser of all empire—the Almighty Ruler of earthly destinies —that no wonder was it the people forgot the natural emblems of woe and mourning for their common mother and queen in joy for the accession of her sister of gentler and more Christian faith, and hastened to light bonfires throughout the streets to attest their gladness of heart for the 'happy deliverance'.

In the summer of 1904 the author of this volume paid a visit to America, and visited the scene of

Sir Egerton Leigh's early life. A brief impression of that visit he here gives the reader.

CHARLESTON, FORMERLY KNOWN AS 'CHARLESTOWN'.

Charleston may be placed amongst the most interesting cities of America. In the days preceding the Revolution it enjoyed a considerable reputation as one of the most important shipping centres of the south, and was in constant communication with England. And although since the advent of steam other ports claim precedency in commercial relations with our country, the warehouses of Charleston still remain as fine examples of their kind. Here, too, the old English manners and customs prevail. They have been handed down from generation to generation, indicating the attachment they own to their mother country. Such outward marks delight the traveller from the old country, and to these obvious traits are united a hospitality far more hearty than in the North. The 'mighty dollar' is hidden in the eager desire to extend the right hand of good fellowship and kindredship.

The parish church of St. Philip, although standing in the old part of the town, still forms a chief attraction. In the year 1712 it was made the duty of the constables and churchwardens twice every Sunday

to walk through the town and to observe, suppress, and apprehend all offenders against 'the Act for the better observation of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday'. And from the year 1716, until the Revolution, all elections in Charleston for members of the General Assembly, &c., were held at St. Philip's, the parish church, and were conducted by the wardens; and various municipal duties were imposed upon her vestry. McCrady says, 'The early history of the church forms part of the colonial history of South Carolina, just as Westminster Abbey forms part of the constitution of England. The colony was founded by the charter of King Charles II (1665), which granted unto the lords proprietors the patronage and advowsons of the churches and chapels, to cause them to be dedicated and consecrated according to the ecclesiastical laws of our kingdom of England, being the only true and orthodox and the national religion of all the king's dominions, is so also of Carolina; and therefore it alone shall be allowed to receive public maintenance by grant of Parliament.' The date of the old church is not accurately known, but in the year 1682 Thomas Ash relates that 'the town is regularly laid out into large and capacious streets, which to buildings is a great ornament and beauty;

in it they have reserved convenient place for a church, town house, and other public structures'. The church was probably built before 1690, and was known as 'the English Church' (the name St. Philip's first appears in the deed to Blake in 1697). It was built of black cypress upon a brick foundation, 'large and stately,' surrounded by a neat white palisade fence, but only lasted about thirty years, as in 1710 a brick church was commenced to take its place, and was opened before completion in 1723. Rev. C. W. Mason says, 'This church is allowed to be the most religious edifice in British America.' It was 62 feet wide, built of brick and rough-cast, with two rows of Tuscan pillars, upon which fine arches were supported on each side, the pillars being ornamented on the inside with fluted Corinthian pilasters. The church was nearly finished when the king purchased the province, and bore an inscription 'Propius res aspice nostras' over the centre arch on the south, and on the north 'Deus mihi sol'. The communion plate was a gift from the English Government, consisting of two tankards, one chalice and paten, and one large alms-plate, each piece bearing the Royal Arms of England. Tredwell Bull says (in 1723), 'There is a new church not yet entirely

finished in the said city (Charles City or Town), a large and regular and beautiful building exceeding any that are in His Majesty's dominions in America.' Edmund Burke goes further, and says, speaking of this church, 'It is spacious and executed in a very handsome taste, exceeding everything of that kind which we have in America.'

Great fires devastated the city in 1740, 1778, 1796, and in 1810, but St. Philip's escaped them all, being saved by the gallant conduct of a negro man in 1796, who climbed the steeple whilst it was alight and tore off the burning shingles. But alas! it fell a victim to the fire on Sunday morning, February 14, 1835, when, together with its monuments, it was totally destroyed. The *Courier* of February 16, 1835, says, 'The most striking feature of this calamity is the destruction of St. Philip's Church, commonly known as "the Old Church", the venerable structure which has for more than a century towered among us in all the solemnity and noble proportions of antique architecture, constituting a hallowed link between the past and the present, with its monumental memorials of the beloved and honoured dead, and its splendid organ is now a smoking ruin. . . . It is much to be regretted that preventive measures had not been taken in season to save the

noble and consecrated edifice. The flames slowly descending wreathed the steeple, constituting a magnificent spectacle, and forming literally a pillar of fire, and finally enwrapped the whole body of the church in its enlarged volume; the burning body of the church was the closing scene of the catastrophe. In 1796 it was preserved by a negro man, who ascended it, and was rewarded with his freedom for his perilous exertions. And again in 1810 it narrowly escaped the destructive fire of that year, which commenced in the house adjoining the church on the north.'

The register of births, marriages, and deaths still exists from the year 1720, containing the following entry:—

'Sir Egerton Leigh, Buried Sept. 17th, 1781.'

But there are no minutes of the proceedings of the vestry before 1732. On November 12, 1837, the corner stone of the present church was laid, and the first service under the roof was held on a fast-day, May 3, 1838, and the church was consecrated by Bishop Bowen on November 9, 1838.

The aged sexton I found to be a man now over eighty years of age, well up in the history of the church, and remembers the fire. He himself hailed from Warwickshire some seventy odd years before,

and proudly recalled many stories which were current in his younger days both at home in the dear old country, and also in South Carolina, the land of his adoption. Incidents in the lives of both Peter Leigh, the famous Judge-Advocate, and of his son, Sir Egerton Leigh, the Attorney-General, he recalls with pleasure; also the monument erected to their honour in the chancel (which perished in the great fire) as he points out the exact spot beneath its site where their bodies rest in peace and obscurity: 'See here where the road passes, the old church of St. Philip's once stood, and the chancel in yon corner there is the burial-place of the illustrious dead, Peter and Egerton and their wives. There be nought left of it now but the hard road. It were a terrible fire, and the flames destroyed everything that was above ground as they spread from tower to church and from church to chancel, till all were gone. I were but a little lad then! but bless yer! I see it all now.' And here it was that the author stood deep in thought, picturing to himself the noble edifice, its monuments, and its dead, the ashes of his ancestors still mouldering in the dust of ages, nothing being left to mark and guard the sacred spot but the hard heartless road of flint that passes over their tombs, yet

finding consolation in the knowledge that the name still lives there in that far-off land, in the mind of a poor old man, as well as with those who have read their history and regard it as that of men who did their duty in their day under most trying circumstances; all reminding one of Macaulay's *Lays of Ancient Rome*:—

> And how can man die better
> Than facing fearful odds,
> For the ashes of his fathers,
> And the temple of his Gods?

A paragraph appeared in the *Courier* about a year ago in reference to Sir Egerton Leigh's picture sale, which comprised many very valuable works of art, including a Paul Veronese, Carlo Dolci, Jordaens (Jordeaux), Gluselfi, Correggio, and Guido. The following extracts were taken by the author from McCrady's *History of South Carolina*, 1719–1776:—'Peter Leigh was appointed by the English Government Lord Chief Justice of South Carolina, and proved himself to be a man of great ability and a good lawyer, and he filled the position of Chief Justice of the province for seven years without giving the least cause of suspicion as to his integrity. . . . He died on the 21st of July, 1759, and was buried in St. Philip's Church.' 'Whatever

may have been the circumstances under which he came, he was a gentlemen and a lawyer.' The history goes on to explain what these circumstances were, namely, that 'Lord Chief Justice Pinckney was put aside to make way for Peter Leigh, who had to be provided for by the corrupt administration of Pelham, but Peter Leigh was a gentleman as well as a good lawyer'. It is impossible not to observe the bitter feeling that existed at the time. The south countryman Pinckney had been deprived of his office by the Government of the mother country and an Englishman thrust upon the southerners against their will. No wonder that the antagonistic historian speaks of the corrupt practices of Pelham, notwithstanding that he is compelled to refer to Peter Leigh (who had obtained his appointment through that so-called 'corrupt practice') on three different occasions as 'a gentleman and a good lawyer', surely very high testimony—adding these words:—'Peter Leigh and his son Egerton Leigh (afterwards made a baronet) occupied a high social position in the colony, though doubtless the circumstances of their advent had much to do with preparing the way for the reception of revolutionary sentiments.' Sir Egerton Leigh was then His Majesty's Attorney-General in South

Carolina, and married the daughter of Francis Bremar, of South Carolina, in 1756. He was offered a peerage by George III for his distinguished services during the American War, but this offer he declined.

'The office of Judge of the Admiralty was filled by Sir Egerton Leigh just before the Revolution. Sir Egerton at that time was a monopolist; he held the various offices in the province of Attorney-General, Surveyor-General, Judge of the Admiralty, and member of the Council, and in 1772 was created a baronet; he was a man of learning and ability. The date of his commission of Common Pleas was 1753, Nov. 1st. . . . On Feb. 8, 1769, being the anniversary of the Master's Lodge of Freemasons, they all met and had an elegant entertainment at Mr. Pomsette's Tavern, where the Most Worshipful and Honourable Egerton Leigh, Grand Master, and other distinguished brothers spent the day in a manner suitable to the occasion and institution. Among the toasts drank were "The glorious ninety-six", "Twenty-six", "Confusion to all attempts to subvert the British Constitution".'

When we take into consideration that these things were written and recorded concerning men sent from the British Government to turn out

and take the place of native talent, we can hardly expect to find good deeds handed down to gild their reign. But we can without prejudice assume that both Peter Leigh and his son Sir Egerton did their duty generally, cheerfully, and loyally to a fault, serving their king and country bravely to the last. Peter Leigh died in the yet peaceful days, and was buried in 1759, in the province of South Carolina, of which his son was afterwards to become the Judge of the Admiralty. There he had lived and worked, and it was but meet that his bones should be laid to rest in the chancel of his beloved church, St. Philip's in Charleston. Sir Egerton lived to see more troublesome and eventful times; and, fighting for his king against the Revolutionists, he was overthrown and driven from the country, deprived of all his possessions there. When things were more settled he returned two years later, being drawn thither by the beloved memory of those who had gone before him (his mother, an American lady, lived and died there); and thus it was that he too ended his days at Charleston, and was buried with his father and mother beneath the chancel of the old church of St. Philip's in that city; and there rested their bodies when, alas! the structure took fire and was burnt to the ground

in 1835. They had vast possessions in Carolina, and one only child, a son, who succeeded to the baronetcy, his name being likewise Egerton. But the Revolutionists had gained the day; England had lost her power, and been driven out of the States, and the second Sir Egerton, the descendant of the loyal supporters of the sovereign, was scarcely allowed to leave the country with his life and come to the land of his ancestors. His possessions in South Carolina were confiscated by the spoiler's hand and sold, and, a good title in fee simple being given to the purchasers, were thus lost to the Leigh family for ever. And so it was that Sir Egerton Leigh sought his old rights and estates in Warwickshire. But alas! only to find that, through neglect and the lapse of time, these too had been confiscated, after falling into the hands of Chancery for many years. Thus, after a long lawsuit, which failed for want of proof—registers, monuments, &c., having been destroyed in the interval—he was constrained to take up his residence at an old family mansion in Warwickshire, known as Harborough Parva Hall.

In or about the year 1787 this old manorial mansion was pulled down, and Sir Egerton Leigh went to live at Brownsover Hall, upon his marriage

with Theodosia Beauchamp, the only daughter and heiress of Sir Edward Boughton, of Lawford Hall, Bart. A farm-house was built with the bricks and materials of the ancient hall at Harborough Parva, which has been occupied for over a hundred years by a family of the name of Garner, good old tenants, deserving well of their generation; their descendant residing there to this day. The beautiful gardens that used to delight the owners have long since disappeared, and grass fields, sloping to the country road, have taken their place; the old elm sprouting out afresh with renewed vigour on the crown of the hill, and three fine Spanish chestnut trees in front, alone remain to mark the spot of former glory,—sheltered as of yore by the little oak rookery at the northern corner, an ancient landmark from afar, where the crows still caw as they nestle together to rear their young in early springtime.

BROWNSOVER CHAPEL

CHAPTER VIII

BROWNSOVER

This tiny hamlet, within whose feudal boundary stands the Hall, the ancient seat of the Boughtons, is situated about one mile north-east of Rugby. It forms a portion of the parish of Clifton-on-Dunsmore. A small chapel, dedicated to St. Michael, was erected here and endowed with tithes of corn and hay, which were given by Ernald de Boys to the Abbey of Leicester about the year 1140; 'in which chapel,' says Dugdale, 'there is Christening and Buriall, by special grant of the Abbot of Leicester, in regard to the distance of this village from the mother church of Clifton, and the hindrance of access thereto by the overflowing of Avon oft-times.' This early

chapel, built in the Norman style of architecture, has long since passed away, and the sacred edifice which now occupies the ground is an interesting little structure, chiefly in the early English style of Gothic ecclesiastical architecture, together with some few traces of earlier and of later work. The chief alterations or rebuilding took place in the nineteenth century, during which time the side windows of the existing Norman chancel were inserted in lieu of the smaller Norman lights. The nave is entirely of the thirteenth century, and was considered by the late antiquary, Mr. Matthew Holbeche Bloxam, to have been an addition to the Norman chapel, rather than a reconstruction, the width being peculiar. It was almost rebuilt in 1876, under the superintendence of the late Sir Gilbert Scott, R.A., but is an exact copy of the thirteenth-century work, every old stone being reset in its former position, supplemented here and there by new ones in the place of those decayed. Previous to the restoration the walls externally were covered with plaster, a brick porch standing at the West end, in the roof of which the bell was suspended, which is said to have been brought from the mother church. Some of the seats and screen date from the fifteenth century. The screen now occupies its original position, dividing

the nave from the chancel, and has been restored with considerable additions of beautifully carved panels from the chisel of the late Allesley Ward-Boughton-Leigh, Esq. New seats of solid oak have been erected in the nave, and all available portions of the ancient seating have been worked up in them. The roof is open timbered, and constructed of oak in character with the rest of the building. In the South-west angle of the nave is the baptistry, with a font of late Norman style. The pulpit is beautifully carved with a medallion depicting the head of our Saviour, lifesize. The East window of the chancel is of three lights, and in the debased style of architecture; it is said to have been constructed at the cost of Lawrence Sheriff, the founder of Rugby School, who was born in the village, and owned some thirty-six acres of land here, which now constitute a portion of the endowment fund of his school. The stained glass in this window was the gift of the late Mr. M. H. Bloxam, and illustrates St. Michael and St. Gabriel. Beneath the window is the following inscription :—'To the glory of God and in memory of Lawrence Sheriff; Matthew Holbeche Bloxam, sometime a foundationer of Rugby School, hath caused this glass window to be made, A. D. 1881.'

The lower portions of the chancel appear to be of

Norman work, and during the last restoration in the North wall was discovered an aumbry or circular-headed locker, the arch of which is composed of thin laminae stone, which has been preserved. In the recess of the easternmost window on the South side a sedilia has been constructed for two seats. On either side of the East window are two brackets considerably mutilated; these are said to have borne images—the Blessed Virgin with the Infant Saviour in her arms on one side, the other a figure of St. Michael. On the floor of the chancel are slabs covering the remains of descendants of Lawrence Sheriff, one being his nephew, who died in 1678, aged ninety-nine years. In the South wall of the chancel, towards the West end, is the low side window anciently used for the rite of Utter Confession. In the same wall, near the East end, a small piscina was discovered in 1875, but was unfortunately destroyed, and the stone sedilia before mentioned erected in its place. Beneath the communion table are a few ancient tiles of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries found during the restoration, showing with what care the cultured architect supervised the work throughout; every stone in the beautiful windows at the West end and the doorway being worked in from the ancient edifice,

leaving to us who come after the delightful touches of the past, even down to the minute heads which now adorn the entrance, the memorial of its former glory. Here, too, is the figure of the Great Patron of our faith with the crown of thorns and His Virgin Mother, standing on either side of the beautiful western gate, whilst the windows close at hand represent the pious founder of this chapel and his wife. The intellectual head speaks its thoughtfulness, with its broad and open countenance, impressive with its spiritual earnestness, such as we might well associate with the bestower of these noble deeds in the centuries of long ago. The heads of kings and queens, monks and nuns, are likewise pictured here, showing the important part they played in the mediaeval life of England. The wandering tourist may pass these small figures by unheeded or with momentary curiosity, but when study of the past is brought in sympathy with thoughtful reverence, these portraits in stone reveal in their own inarticulate language the spiritual meaning of the bygone days they represent. Here we are brought into direct relationship with our very own forefathers; in these churches there is a personal feeling which carries our thoughts back to the age of our ancestors. There are, for instance, the armo-

rial bearings, the inscriptions, the figures of those whose thoughtful generosity has blessed many a succeeding generation.

Just outside the chapel-yard we notice memorials of many ages—indeed, over more than ten centuries. Scarcely beyond the sacred precincts there are remains of ancient British encampments. There are likewise earthworks raised during the Wars of the Roses. There are also indications of the strongholds and fortifications raised during the struggle between Charles and his Parliament. We find here the work of the Norman, the Mediaeval, the Post-Reformation, and nineteenth century; tracing back the descent, step by step, in unbroken order to the days of Alwine before the Norman Conquest; also of the families of the Boughtons and the Leighs, who still hold their ancient possessions here and in the adjoining parishes of Newbold-on-Avon, Rugby, and Harborough Magna, overlooking these sweet vales watered by the historic Avon and the Swift.

Brownsover Hall contains a valuable collection of paintings, including portrait of Sir Egerton Leigh as a boy with a peach in his hand. In the dining-room are Algernon Greville and Sir Egerton Leigh, first Baronet, 1772; also a miniature in the drawing-room. There are other portraits:—

In front hall: Thomas Egerton, Baron Ellesmere, Viscount Brackley, Lord Chancellor of England.

Family group—Peter Leigh, Elizabeth his wife, their son Sir Egerton Leigh, first Baronet, and younger children, by Hogarth.

Peter Leigh.

Sir Egerton Leigh and wife.

Sir Edward Boughton.

The Right Rev. John Egerton, D.D., Bishop of Durham (Custos Rotulorum), eldest son of Henry Egerton, D.D., Bishop of Hereford, and fifth son of John, Earl of Bridgewater, and brother-in-law to Sir Edward Boughton, Bart.; appointed Dean of Hereford 1750, Bishop of Bangor 1756, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry 1768, and Bishop of Durham 1771.

Sir Edward Egerton Brydges, Bart., born Nov. 30, 1762, kinsman of Sir Egerton Leigh, Bart.; was son of E. Brydges, Wotton Court, Kent, by Jemima, daughter and co-heiress of W. Egerton, LL.D., grandson of John, second Earl of Bridgewater, by the Lady Elizabeth, daughter of William Cavendish, the loyal Duke of Newcastle.

In addition to the valuable collection of pictures, there are many amusing papers at Brownsover Hall, among which the following correspondence

between Lady Seymour and Lady Shuckburgh may be worthy of record:—

No 1. 'Lady Seymour presents her compliments to Lady Shuckburgh and would be obliged to her for the character of Mary Steadman, who states that she has lived twelve months, and still is, in Lady Shuckburgh's establishment. Can Mary Steadman cook plain dishes well, and make bread, and is she honest, sober, willing, cleanly, and good tempered? Lady Seymour will also like to know the reason she leaves Lady Shuckburgh's house. Direct under care to Lord Seymour, Meriden Bradley, Wiltshire.'

No. 2. 'Lady Shuckburgh presents her compliments to Lady Seymour; her ladyship's letter, dated October 28th, only reached her yesterday, November 3rd. Lady Shuckburgh was unacquainted with the name of the kitchen-maid until mentioned by Lady Seymour, as it is her custom neither to apply for, nor give, characters to any of the under servants, this being always done by the housekeeper, Mrs. Couch, and this was well known to the young woman. Therefore Lady Shuckburgh is surprised at her referring any lady to her for a character. Lady Shuckburgh keeping a professed cook, as well as a housekeeper in her establishment,

it is not very probable she herself should know anything of the abilities or merits of the under servants; she is therefore unable to reply to Lady Seymour's note. Lady Shuckburgh cannot imagine Mary Steadman to be capable of cooking anything except for the servants' hall table. November 4th.'

No. 3. 'Lady Seymour presents her compliments to Lady Shuckburgh, and begs she will order her housekeeper, Mrs. Couch, to send the girl's character, otherwise another young woman will be sought for elsewhere, as Lady Seymour's children cannot remain without their dinners because Lady Shuckburgh, keeping a professed cook and housekeeper, thinks a knowledge of the details of her establishment beneath her notice. Lady Seymour understands from Steadman that, in addition to her other talents, she was actually capable of cooking food for the little Shuckburghs to partake of when hungry.'

There is a drawing of a round table and all the little Shuckburghs bolting chops cooked by the said Mary Steadman.

No. 4. From the housekeeper.

'Madam,—Lady Shuckburgh has directed me to acquaint you that she declines answering your note, the vulgarity of which she thinks beneath her con-

tempt, and although it may be characteristic of the Sheridans to be vulgar, coarse, and witty, it is not that of a lady, unless she chances to have been *born in a garret and bred in a kitchen.* Mary Steadman informs me that your ladyship does not keep either a cook or housekeeper, and that you only require a girl who can cook a mutton chop; if so, I apprehend that Mary Steadman, or any *other scullion*, will be found fully equal to the establishment of the Queen of Beauty.

'I am, madam,

'Your Ladyship's, &c., &c.,

'ELIZABETH COUCH.'

Brownsover Hall is a delightful old residence, rebuilt and decorated by Sir Gilbert Scott, R.A., and stands in one of the most picturesque spots in the vicinity. It was the birthplace of the Rev. Theodosius Egerton B. W.-Boughton-Leigh, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge, and the Vicar of Newbold-on-Avon, 1852–1902, as mentioned under the heading of that parish. His elder brother, John Boughton, who died at the early age of twenty-two years, would have made a worthy successor to the estates and halls had his life been spared. He had already displayed great ability and was fond of sport.

BROWNSOVER HALL

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horse in a dogcart out of the barrack-yard, when it reared up and fell backwards upon him, stunning him, and causing concussion of the brain. After a delay of six weeks, he left with the intention of rejoining his regiment in Canada. His father met him at Plymouth, and writing home to his wife, says: 'Boughton appears heart and soul devoted to the Service, and thought no more of going to Canada than you would to the greenhouse. When he heard of another officer going in a comparatively luxurious manner by a large steamer in perhaps fifteen days, and he destined to rough it in a merchantman, which will probably be two months weathering the stormy Atlantic, he said, "His place was with his men, and he preferred the fulfilment of his duty and sticking by his regiment to going out in any other way," and his feelings of gratitude to us were to the brim.'

He set sail in the *Earl of Durham* at 3 a.m., May 23, 1839, but four days later he was transferred to a Government steamer, being placed under the care of the chaplain, the Rev. Rowland Bloxam, conveyed back to Plymouth, and taken to the Military Hospital there, where he was found to be suffering from the effects of the accident, greatly accelerated by sea-sickness. He was attended by

three medical men, who, after the manner of those days, at once bled him in both temporal arteries and also in the arm, and he quickly succumbed to the treatment, dying, before the return of his father, at 10 p.m. the same day, Monday, May 27, 1839.

Before we leave the archives of the Hall, the following little reminiscence in connexion with the old squire and his wife appears too typical to be omitted :—

When the writer and his elder brother were small boys at Rugby School, their uncle (the late Mr. Allesley Ward-Boughton-Leigh), then a happy bachelor, whilst dining one evening at the Vicarage, Newbold-on-Avon, promised them a pony, and their expectation knew no bounds of delight; but day after day and month after month passed away, and no pony arrived. Many years elapsed, and the boys became men, when the younger of the two, who became Rector of Harborough Magna, called at a late hour, as was his custom in those days, upon his uncle, who, in the course of conversation, said: 'Did not I once promise you a pony, Rector?' 'Yes, you did promise one to my elder brother and myself when we were boys.' 'Did you ever get it?' 'Get it! no, I should think not, indeed. We waited anxiously expecting, but the pony never arrived.

Did you ever send it?' 'Well, no, I don't think I ever did; but I will make up for it now and give you one I've got in the stable.' 'Oh, thank you, and as there's no time like the present, I will have it now.' 'Hem! It's rather late, but I'll see.' Rings the bell; enter gamekeeper. 'Keeper, is the coachman gone to bed?' 'No, sir, he ain't; he's a having a poipe along with me in case yer rang.' 'Well, send and fetch him.' Does so; enter coachman. 'Coachman, I want you to take the cream-coloured pony over to Harborough Magna Rectory to-night; I have given him to the Rector, and he says "there's no time like the present", and you will be sure to get a big tip, you know.' 'It is a bit late, sir, but I'll take it at once.'

Some time afterwards the Rector returned home, and retired for the night, but awoke in the early hours of the morning by hearing the pony in the yard, and going out later on found that it was not in the stable, and upon making inquiries in the village he ascertained that the Brownsover coachman had been seen leading the pony back to the Hall; so, quickly following to learn the reason, he inquired of his uncle if he knew anything about it; he looked confused and simply said, 'Oh, never mind; I will give you another.' Seeing that further explana-

tions might be embarrassing, the subject was allowed to drop, and alas! 'another' never arrived; but a few years later on, the riddle was solved by John Deacon, who was at the time right-hand man at the Hall. He chaffingly remarked to the Rector, 'You never got that pony, did yer, Sir? and I'll tell yer how it happened. You remember when the coachman and keeper were in the room along with you and yer uncle; well, yer aunt were outside, and hearing what was agoing on, told the coachman when he came out that he must keep his word and take the pony over, but fetch it back first thing next morning, and that 's why he did it, and yer didn't get it after all.' Shortly afterwards, the aunt sent the pony into Rugby, and it fell down dead in the shafts.

Not long afterwards the same uncle was at Harborough Magna Rectory, and seeing an antique sideboard said he had one of Sir Egerton Leigh's cellarets at the Hall and they would just match, and promised to give it to the writer, who called for it according to arrangement, and saw the housekeeper, who said no one was at home, and she could not find the cellaret anywhere; but thinking she knew something, she was pressed a little further, and admitted that her mistress had bidden her make use of it at once, and keep it out of sight, and on no account

allow it to be taken out of the house, but she had heard her master tell her mistress that he had given it to the Rector, and that it was to be dusted and got ready. Thinking the situation dangerous and that prompt action was advisable, the proverbial tip was brought into requisition and the cellaret was produced, and being cleared of its newly-acquired contents, wool and knitting needles, &c., was speedily conveyed to the Rectory, where it still remains in peace.

The writer could relate many similar stories, but the above may suffice to tell their own tale, and to show how many a kindly action gets nipped in the bud and a noble deed frustrated to the detriment of the wrong person.

Leaving the Church and Hall, we wander over the wooden bridge and wind our way through meadow-land until we come to the 'long planks' leading over the Avon, which stream, so memorable in Shakespeare's county, assumes here for the first time in its tortuous windings the proud dignity of a river. We meet with picturesque glimpses of woodland scenery, amid the bathing-places known to Rugby schoolboys of the past as 'The Swifts', around which still linger memories grave and cheerful. Here many a Rugby lad has first dis-

played his skill in swimming; here too several promising boys (one well known to the writer) have met their doom. A little lower down the stream the Swift joins the Avon. This winding brook has been rendered memorable by the sacrilegious action of the Council of Constance in the year 1415. By their decree the ashes of 'the Star of the Reformation', John Wycliffe, were disinterred from the chancel at Lutterworth Church, and being burnt were cast into this stream at the point where it passes under the bridge below Lutterworth. In their eager attempt to exterminate the remains of this great reformer they threw his ashes into the Swift, and the Swift, pleased with its new burden, smilingly bore them along its course and committed them to the Avon, and the Avon carried them to the Severn, and the Severn bore them to the sea, and the great Atlantic tossed them hither and thither to all parts of the world, and with them the grand truths of that glorious gospel which he preached;—so these misguided men of old perpetuated for ever that which they sought so eagerly to destroy, namely, the Protestant doctrines which 'the Star of the Reformation' so heroically disseminated. We may well here repeat, in the words of the poet:—

But strew his ashes to the wind
Whose sword or voice has served mankind.
And is he dead, whose glorious mind
Lifts thine on high?
To live in hearts we leave behind
Is not to die.

But these august and solemn memories are not the only ones which gild with immortal lustre these flowery vales. Here, in the time of the great Elizabethan Queen, came no less a local benefactor than the noble founder, Lawrence Sheriff, whose generous deeds still stand forth as a ray of white light across the historic annals of this country-side. But his true-hearted legacy to his native town and neighbourhood has been frustrated by subsequent Acts of Parliament, and the free education he meant the children of this district to inherit for all time has been annulled. Who can tell what happy thoughts and pleasing inspirations were awakened in young Sheriff's mind as, in the days of long ago, he sat or walked in contemplation by this streamlet's banks? Can we not fancy we see him before he journeyed to the great city to make his fortune? And still more, can we fail to recollect that the vision of this tranquil vale must have oft recurred to his own inner vision as he looked out on the busy capital of his own day? May not the thought and love of this

his fatherland, deeply imprinted on memory's page, have aroused and inspired that charitable chivalry within his breast, that love for those situated in less fortunate positions, to bequeath something of this world's goods for the weal of posterity. Such country districts as these are full of stimulating ideals. Even our own great Warwickshire bard, the immortal Shakespeare—friend as he was of the Boughtons and their home amid the meadow-sweets—tells us in his own simple but majestic lines :—

> And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
> Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
> Sermons in stones, and good in everything.

And in times within living memory, here came 'the good John Moultrie', the rector-poet, wandering in those early morning rambles which find eternal bloom in the tender lines of his lyrics. We, who remember him (although we belong perhaps to a younger generation), see through the matchless purity of his poems the exhilarating influence he derived from these quiet strolls before the world of men and business awoke. At an hour when the birds chanted their fervent symphonies, when Nature was attired in her flowery robe, when earth was fresh with the freshness as of eternal

youth, and sky seemed glad, then it was that Moultrie's mind received impressions from these pastoral scenes, which will live for ever in his exquisite verse.

Here, too, came other men that we remember, whose names will be handed down to the end of time—Matthew Holbeche Bloxam, Thomas Hughes, better known as 'Tom Brown', and many other sons of our illustrious School have paused on their frequent rambles to 'yonder sacred shrine'.

Bloxam, more especially, was deeply attached to the spot. He loved it with affectionate reverence, as he beheld there the link of ten centuries of unbroken history—ancient civilization, British, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon; every style of Gothic architecture; every memorable epoch of British history; the legends and romances; the picturesque in dress and manners; the golden light of mediaeval life and character of those matchless days when monk and nun, secular and regular, friar and Dominican, came thither to offer a prayer or dispense alms at the shrine of St. Michael.

Thomas Hughes, perhaps the best known of Old Rugbeians, in his world-renowned book, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, tells us of many a day spent here amid the green meadows and splashing streams; of many

a ramble through the spinneys to the west, and deadly encounters with 'Velveteens', one of the keepers at Brownsover Hall.

Arthur Stanley, too, whilst still a boy at Rugby, writes touchingly on this retreat, though in the more serious harmony of classic verse :—

> Turn thee to yonder meads; a silver gleam
> Betrays where Avon guides his classic stream;
> Loved of the Nine, upon whose hallowed shore
> The muse of Shakespeare first began to soar;—
> And still the muses on thy margin dwell,
> Dear stream, as yonder rising towers can tell;
> For thou, Brownsover, hast produced a gem
> Richer than those of glory's diadem.
> 'Twas in thee first that Sheriff's youthful mind
> Swelled with desire to benefit mankind;
> To his best charity and honest worth
> Bright seat of learning, Rugby, owes its birth.

CLIFTON-UPON-DUNSMORE, THE MOTHER CHURCH OF RUGBY

CHAPTER IX

RUGBY

RUGBY, a market town, is situated sixteen and a half miles (ENE.) from Warwick and eighty-three (NW. by N.) from London. In the year 1831 the population was 2,300, at which period it consisted of one street, High Street, leading to the Market Place, and a smaller street running parallel to it, known as the Shambles. The houses of brick were fairly well built and of modern appearance, though occasionally here and there were to be seen ancient plastered walls and thatched roofs, of which,

alas! in the year of our Lord 1906, only four or five remain.

The name of the place was Rocheberie at first, so far as it is traceable; and probably in the time of Stephen the nobles of the day erected fortresses here in the expectation of Matilda's invasion. In the reign of Henry III we find Henry de Rokeby the owner, and it is from him that the name of Rugby is derived. The town is pleasantly situated upon rising ground on the south side of the Avon, and formerly was a hamlet of Clifton-upon-Dunsmore, but in the year 1221 the chapel of ease, dedicated to St. Andrew, was made into a separate parish church with a rectory attached, and the living is now a rectory in the archdeaconry of Coventry and diocese of Worcester, and is in the patronage of the Earl of Craven.

The old church was very interesting, in the early style of English architecture, with massive square embattled tower which still survives restoration work. The latter is strengthened by buttresses and turret at the south-east angle, to which there was no entrance but from the interior, and which was probably erected as a place of security after the destruction of the Castle. Very little, if any, of the remainder of the original church, however, now

exists, and the sacred building, as it is presented to us at the present time, is worthy of taking rank amongst the finest specimens of our modern parish churches.

Turchill de Warwick was lord of the manor at the time of the Norman Survey. The manorial rights subsequently passed into the possession of Ernaldus de Bosco, through whose family they came to Henry de Rokeby, who founded here in the thirteenth century a monastic Grange upon the site of the present Rectory, and whose descendants sold the manorial rights and advowson of the church to Sir John Goband, whose son resold them to Ralph Lord Stafford. In the thirty-eighth year of the reign of Henry VI they reverted to the Crown, and John Lord Dudley obtained them from Richard III, in the first year of his reign. He does not, however, appear to have held them for a long period, for we find them again in the possession of the Stafford family, through whom they once more reverted to the Crown, and Henry VIII granted them to Sir Gilbert Talboys, from whom they passed in 1560 to John Wyrley—presumably one of the Wyrleys of Warley Abbey, Worcestershire, and the latter sold them to Richard Burnabye in 1594. In 1710 they passed to Sir William Boughton, of Law-

SIR EGERTON LEIGH, BART.

FACSIMILE OF INSCRIPTION ON THE FOUNDATION STONE

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ford Hall, Bart., whose family also possessed Causton Hall and a seat at Rugby, known as the Manorial Hall, which appears to have been erected upon the site of the old Castle, formerly surrounded by an ancient moat, a few traces of which were preserved until quite recently. This property—or a portion thereof (the trustees seemingly finding it difficult to trace its entirety through the lapse of time)—was left as a free gift to the poor of Long Lawford by Sir Edward Boughton, Bart. The old Bank[1], facing the parish church, is built thereon, and will in due time, when the lease expires, bring to the recipients about £150 per annum.

There are several places of worship in the town. The first Baptist Chapel was erected upon the present site in 1803, by Sir Egerton Leigh, of Harborough Parva and Brownsover Hall, Bart., the foundation-stone being laid by his wife, Lady Leigh. The chapel was enlarged forty-five years later, and again in 1887.

A new chapel and school have been erected (1906), at a cost of nearly £8,000, for the Baptist com-

[1] In the occupation of Messrs. Lloyd & Co., although Lloyd's Bank was moved in May, 1905, into adjoining premises, erected on a portion of this ancient domain.

munity in St. Andrew's Street, Rugby, with a fitting memorial-stone bearing the name of the illustrious founder.

The Wesleyan Chapel, adjoining the Eagle Hotel in the Market Place, is a large and substantial building of brick and stone. Sir William McArthur laid the foundation-stone on May 29, 1868. The Sunday schools are beneath the chapel. The Primitive Methodists also have a place of worship in the town of Rugby. It is well built of red brick and stone, and was erected in the year 1878.

The Parish Church of St. Andrew's was founded in or about the year 1140. We find no trace of a church or chapel of ease in Rugby at the time of the Norman Survey. The town itself did not exist at that period, being only a very small hamlet of Clifton-upon-Dunsmore. In the year 1253 Henry de Rokeby, the then patron of the living, rebuilt the chancel, and about 100 years later Ralph Lord Stafford rebuilt and extended the nave and erected the present tower. From this period the church appears to have held its own, and escaped any further restoration until after the Reformation. In 1797 the South aisle was erected, and seventeen years later the church was further enlarged by the extension of both aisles and the

building of a new chancel and vestry, another aisle being added in the year 1830 from a plan prepared by Rickman (the eminent architectural writer); but, subsequently, owing to the rapid growth of the town, the old building was condemned and entirely razed to the ground, with the exception of the old tower and the four arches which were erected in the fourteenth century.

Amongst all the goodly list of rectors handed down to us, the one whose name must stand out alone as pre-eminently supreme is that of John Moultrie (well known to the author in his boyhood's days), whose marble tablet, erected as it is at the north-east corner of the Moultrie Aisle, tells us that 'This aisle, formerly the nave of the original church, was rebuilt in loving memory of the poet-pastor, the good John Moultrie, fifty years Rector of Rugby; born December 31st, 1799, and died December 26th, 1874, of illness caught in visiting the sick of his flock. "The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep"'. It would perhaps ill become us to pick and choose between the lyrics he has left, full of sweetness and purity, to gladden our lives, but the one that appears to appeal most touchingly perhaps to the innermost feelings is that entitled 'The Three Sons'. I well remember, when

a boy, how my father used to quote it to us, his children, when he would compare his two eldest sons to the boys of five and three :—

I have a son, a little son, a boy just five years old,
With eyes of thoughtful earnestness and mind of gentle mould.
They tell me that unusual grace in all his ways appears,
That my child is grave and wise of heart beyond his childish years.

I have a son, a second son, a simple child of three;
I'll not declare how bright and fair his little features be,
How silver sweet those tones of his when he prattles on my knee,
I do not think his light blue eye is, like his brother's, keen,
Nor his brow so full of childish thought as his hath ever been.

I have a son, a third sweet son, his age I cannot tell,
For they reckon not by years and months where he is gone to dwell.
To us for fourteen anxious months his infant smiles were given,
And then he bade farewell to earth and went to live in heaven.

When we think of what our darling is, and what we still must be,—
When we muse on that world's perfect bliss, and this world's misery,—
When we groan beneath this load of sin, and feel this grief and pain,—
Oh! we'd rather lose our other two, than have him here again.

It was no mere passing incident that brought Moultrie here early in the twenties, fresh from Eton and Cambridge, full of brilliant scholarship, and surrounded by such University friends as Macaulay and Praed, in preparation, as it were,

for that particular moment when Thomas Arnold was to commence a few years later that marvellous task of his, the reformation, with his very life blood, of Rugby School. How could two such minds help starting that pure and noble example here

THOMAS ARNOLD

which shall influence for good all that come after them, even to the end of time? They at once became like brothers. Both were profoundly sincere and religious men, linking together the highest intellectual thought of the sister Universities of the day. But we must pass on to consider that magnificent institution, the School itself, which for

so many years has been the distinguishing feature of Rugby. Founded in 1567, in the ninth year of the reign of Elizabeth, by Lawrence Sheriff, a native of Brownsover, near Rugby, and citizen of London, who endowed it with a house and land in his native village and with about eight acres of land called the Conduit Close, near the Foundling Hospital, London, at that time the income was very small, and in the year 1780 the rental did not exceed £16, but the subsequent improvement of the London estate has brought the revenue up to about £6,000 per annum. The founder was born early in the reign of Henry VIII, in a house built of wood and stone, situated about the centre of Brownsover, close to the chapel of St. Michael. In the year 1566 he was elected Warden of the Grocers' Company, and carried on business in Newgate Street, London, E.C. He made his will on July 22, 1567, wherein he named Rugby and Brownsover. He revisited his birthplace five weeks later, and added a codicil to his will which proved of the greatest benefit to the future position of the School. The codicil is dated the last day of August, 1567, only sixteen days before his death. By his will Lawrence Sheriff expressed a desire to be buried at Rugby, but this wish was not carried out,

and his mortal remains were consigned to the grave in the Greyfriars Church, London. In the ancient register the following entry may be found:—

September, 1567
The xvi. Daye was buryed Mr. Lawrence Shyryfe.

In his will the founder ordered that 'for ever there should be a free Grammar School kept within the said schoole house to serve chiefly for the Children of Rugby and Brownsover aforesaid and next for such as bee of other places thereunto adjoining'. This was altered to a given radius of ten miles around Rugby in the first instance, and subsequently to the children of parents who had previously resided for two years within five miles of Rugby, and the boys were termed foundationers. As the School grew strong in numbers and rich in endowment this privilege of free education became an enormous benefit to the town. Men of title and renown, but lacking a superfluity of this world's goods, widowed ladies of rank, blessed with the responsibility of education but sometimes with scanty means, retired officers and others gladly accepted the advantage, and their sons mingled freely as foundationers of Rugby School with the sons of honest toil, whose parents were occupied

in the many industries of the town and neighbourhood, until the ill-fated day came round and the spoiler's hand was busy once again. Can we forgive, or ever forget?—forgive we may perhaps, but forget, ah no!—that day when men were found to bear evidence according to their conscience that Lawrence Sheriff—notwithstanding the wording of his last will and codicil, wherein he carefully named Rugby and Brownsover and the villages adjoining his old home to be the sole recipients of his bounty—that they believed that he intended to 'Benefit the Good of Education in General' rather than his own native surroundings, the neighbourhood wherein he was born, and which like many another Englishman he had learned to love; thus it came to pass, to the irretrievable loss of those mentioned by the founder. The will and codicil of 1567 were set on one side, and an Act of Parliament passed which, at one fell swoop, demolished with ruthless hand the inestimable boon which our generous benefactor had bestowed upon his birthplace, in the vain hope that it would be a priceless benefit to his friends and neighbours and their posterity for ever.

Twelve years after the death of Lawrence Sheriff, in the year 1579, his sister Bridgett, the wife of

John Howkins, gave birth to a son who lived to be nearly 100 years old, and it was not until his death that the long wearisome lawsuits concerning the charity embracing the Rugby School property came to an end. He was buried in the chancel of the chapel at Brownsover, and we find this entry in the register:—'John Howkins, of South Mimms in the county of Middlesex, Gentleman, was buried at Brownsover, the 21st day of November, 1678.'

The names of the very early masters of Rugby School have not been preserved, but the list of head masters handed down to us commences with the name of Richard Steele, who was appointed about the year 1602. Ralph Pearce (concerning whom a petition was drawn up and presented to Lord Dunsmore) was appointed in 1605. In 1675 Robert Ashbridge, M.A., was elected, and it is to him that we owe the commencement of the register of the boys entering the School. Henry Holyoak, the eleventh head master, was appointed in 1687. He was formerly one of the chaplains of Magdalen College, Oxford, but was deprived of that office for refusing to obey the mandate of James II. He was readmitted in 1688, and resigned the chaplaincy, continuing Master of Rugby until the year 1731. By his will, dated Feb. 11, 1730, he made many

bequests to charities, including one for 'fifty shillings to the poor of Harborow' (Harborough Magna). 'I do also leave to the School of Rugby all my books, and the two pictures of my Grandfather and Father, if the Honble. the Trustees shall think all or any of them worth y^r^ acceptance; if not, to be sold with the rest of my goods by my Executor.' The books were carefully preserved up to about the middle of the nineteenth century by the School authorities, but they have since mysteriously disappeared.

Mr. Holyoak was a famous schoolmaster, and perhaps did more for the School than any who were before him or who came after him, until the days of Arnold, who was appointed in 1828. The School greatly increased during Mr. Holyoak's time, and there is no doubt it would have done much more so had it not been for the want of accommodation. But not only did the School lists swell in numbers but also in rank, and amongst the entries during his mastership we find the following:—1693, Craven, Charles, son of Sir William Craven, Knt., of Combe Abbey; 1694, Greville, the Honourable Doddington, third son of the Rt. Hon. Lord Brooke, Beauchamp Court, Warwickshire; 1695, Ward, the Honourable Edward, eldest

grandson of the Rt. Hon. Lord Dudley and Ward, afterwards third Lord Dudley and Ward; 1698, Stawell, Hon. Edward, brother of the Rt. Hon. Lord Stawell; 1702, Mordaunt, Hon. Charles, son of the Rt. Hon. Lord Mordaunt, M.P. for Chippenham; 1703, Craven, Hon. William, eldest son of Rt. Hon. Lord Craven; 1703, Craven, Hon. Fulwar, brother of the above; 1707, Griffin, Hon. Edward, son of Rt. Hon. Lord Griffin; 1722, Grey, Harry Lord, eldest son of Rt. Hon. Harry, Earl of Stamford; 1689, Bridgeman, Orlando, eldest son of Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Bart., Coventry; 1690, Cave, Thomas, eldest son of Sir Roger Cave, Bart., of Stanford Hall; 1690, Shuckburgh, John, eldest son of Sir Charles Shuckburgh, Bart., M.P., of Shuckburgh Hall; and nineteen other elder sons of baronets and many of their younger sons. In the year 1726 Thomas, eldest son of John Ward, of Guilsborough Hall, Northamptonshire, entered the School. He was an ancestor of the author's, and mention is made of him here on account of an original letter written by Mr. Holyoak in his own handwriting and sent to his father, which appears worthy of quotation, as showing not only the courtesy of the head master, but also the deep interest he took in his pupils' welfare. The

letter was until recently preserved amongst the archives of the family at Brownsover Hall.

'Hond. Sr

Your young Gentleman is very hopeful. At first indeed I believe He thought of nothing but Liberty, but he soon applyd himself to busines and moves with promising succes; for He had lately discover'd a pretty emulation of not being outrival'd by any of his Equals, which Indication 'twill be my busines to cherish. I have as 'twere just task'd Him and accordingly sr. you'l find him at present raw and unpolish'd, yet I question not, but he'l soon make a more considerable figure.

Be pleased Sr to be assur'd of my best diligence & application to Him as I wou'd desire to be accounted

Hond. Sr
Yours faithful
& most Obedient St

Rugby
Dec: 12
1726

My humble service attends your Lady
These
To John Ward Esqr
humbly
present'

H. Holyoak

The Rev. Henry Holyoak, D.D., was the son of the Rev. Thomas Holyoak, Rector of Whit-

nash, Warwickshire, and was a chorister of Magdalen College, Oxford, 1672–1676; Rector of Burton-upon-Dunsmore, 1698. In 1705 he was presented to the living of Bilton by Sir William Boughton, of Lawford Hall, Bart., who afterwards, in 1712, presented him to the living of Harborough Magna; but, although the Pluralities Act was not in force, he did not hold more than one benefice at the same time. He died unmarried on March 10, 1731.

The School was originally built on the north side of Church Street, partly on land acquired from the Boughtons. The old house occupied by Lawrence Sheriff, erected probably by his father early in the sixteenth century, being partly constructed of timber, was used up to this time (1747) as the head master's abode, but it now began to show signs of distress, and the School itself is said to have been in a singular state of collapse. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that the trustees acquired fresh premises, and about the year 1770 they began to erect schoolrooms upon the site of the old Manor House, which at this period passed into their hands, and in the year 1775, when the open spaces were enclosed, they were awarded eight acres of land, which now form part of the School Close. The schoolrooms did not, however, last long, for we find that they

were rebuilt in the year 1808, and that a splendid range of buildings was erected from plans by Henry Hakewell, Esq., a London architect of some repute. The principal entrance is under a square gateway tower with octagonal archway, above which is a beautiful oriental window embellished with stained glass, containing portraits of many of the head masters; there being a good likeness of the highly-cultured but persecuted head master, Henry Hayman, D.D., appointed in 1870, and who left the School, to the great regret of the boys and many friends in the county, in 1874.

A famous conundrum amongst the boys of his day used to be, 'Why is Hayman like a rabbit? Because he would soon be killed without his Burrows,'—the Rev. L. T. Burrows being a house master at the time of this event, and the only master in the School who refused to sign a petition against the newly-appointed head master, Henry Hayman. The author, who was a boy at the School when the Doctor arrived on the scene, will not easily forget the first evening of the School year 1870, as the following incident, of which he was an eyewitness, will testify. All the various 'forms' had been told to assemble in the Close outside the head master's study as soon as school was over,

and upon their congregating, many of the house and form masters being with them, their chief opened the study door and stood to view upon the steps that lead to the Close as if about to address the School or to receive (as he ought to have done, and as the writer expected he would receive) their acclamations of welcome. He had, however, to beat a hasty retreat, finding anything but a courteous and happy greeting awaiting him from his under masters, whilst the boys stood horror-struck with amazement. But boys reverence fair play, and from that day forward Hayman was a favourite amongst them.

The present sixth-form room was erected over this gateway during the mastership of Arnold, and rendered ever famous as the room where he taught from 1828 to 1842.

There is a spacious quadrangle, two sides of which are cloistered. The old Big School occupies one side, and the Arnold School Library, erected in memory of Thomas Arnold in 1844, the right as you enter from the High Street. But this building is no longer used for its original purpose, as in the year 1879 the Temple Reading-room was erected beneath the Art Museum, and most of the School books were removed thither; the Arnold

Library being divided and part of the building used for the lower bench of the sixth form, and the remainder for a collection of classical works of reference. Around the walls of the old sixth-form room, where Arnold used to teach, are a number of tops of small tables used by former Rugby boys, upon which are carved by their own hands the names of those who in after life have achieved fame.

Passing through the quadrangle under an archway diagonally opposite to the principal entrance is the approach to the new block of School buildings and Chapel, which were completed in 1886, from designs by Mr. Butterfield. The Chapel stands upon the same site as the former sacred building, but is larger, extending further to the east and to the south. During its erection it was found necessary to move the famous elm-tree planted by Arnold. Great fear was raised on all sides, but the operation was successfully carried out at considerable anxiety and cost [1]. The writer, with many other schoolfellows, stood day by day watching with interest until the task was completed, and now rejoices as he views the tree flourishing, lending by its association

[1] The original contract is reported to have been for £500 should the tree die, and £1,000 should it live, but this proved to be considerably short of the actual expense incurred, as far as memory serves.

another historical element to the picturesque loveliness of the Close. Arnold loved the School Close, and it is fitting that the tree he planted should be so near the Chapel, in which his ashes lie, and whose walls contain his recumbent figure, near that of one of his most distinguished and lovable of pupils, Arthur Stanley, Dean of Westminster. The whole atmosphere, not only of the Chapel and Close, but the entire School premises, seems to waft back to us and ours the very spirit of Arnold. The glorious work which he was enabled to perform whilst permitted to rule here has gone on ever growing and extending, constituting the rules by which have been subsequently governed all the other public schools throughout the length and breadth of our land. Rugby School to-day bears the impress of his personality in almost every detail. During those twelve years of his mastership he so infused his spirit into its life and aims that its society, though constantly changing, has never lost the characteristics which he gave it. Great and famous as have been its subsequent masters—Tait, Goulburn, Temple, Jex-Blake, Percival, and James—and although they undoubtedly raised the tone and character of the School to present-day requirements, Arnold bequeathed to it his own peculiar

genius. It, therefore, stands forth to-day essentially as the school of Arnold. His divine words, whether spoken in private or so eloquently addressed from the Chapel pulpit, sank down into the hearts of the boys, his sincerity and love influencing every member of the School. Read *Tom Brown's School Days* and Stanley's *Life of Arnold*, and you will see portrayed by two widely different but gifted pupils the influence of his character and of his teachings. The true beauty of his educational influence cannot perhaps be better summed up than in his own concluding words in Rugby School Chapel, in the last sermon he ever preached, upon that Sunday, the close of the summer half, June 5, 1842: 'To this I would call you all, so long as I am permitted to speak to you; to this I do call you all, and especially all who are likely to meet here again after a short interval, that you may return Christ's servants with *a believing and a loving heart.*'

Before they did meet again, however, Arnold himself had passed away to his eternal rest. But that inspiring influence, that example of love which won all hearts to him, and had taught even schoolboys that it was noble and courageous to kneel down and pray privately and openly in their

dormitories, has remained to stamp and to train the lives of those who follow. So that as long as the world lasts the name of Arnold will be here to encourage and to strengthen our School by the pure and holy life which he lived. These were the qualities which inspired his friend, the then Rector of Rugby, John Moultrie, causing him to write these memorable lines:—

> . . . Thy fearless and ingenuous heart,
> Thy love intense of virtue, thy pure aim
> Knowledge and faith and wisdom to impart,
> No matter at what loss of wealth and fame—
> These are the spells which make my warm tears start,
> And my heart burn with sympathetic flame.

The School Close abounds with treasures that delight the eye of every Rugbeian:—the field itself, to wit, the old playing ground where so many battles have been fought between the School and our sister Universities at football—the game to which Rugby has given its name all over the world; where, too, so many noble contests with bat and ball have been lost and won. The elms that are left to us, worshipped perhaps the more, as we shed a tear at the vacant spaces of those that are gone. The Swimming Bath, which occupies the site of the ancient shed or barn, formerly the scene of many a conflict of pugilistic skill, was presented to the

School in 1876 by the kind and sympathetic friend of the boys, the then head master, Dr. Jex-Blake, now Dean of Wells. The Racquet and 'Fives' Courts, which have not unfrequently been the means of bringing honour and glory to our School at the annual matches between all the great public schools. The old pavilion, which stands beneath the shade of drooping trees, and has a reminiscence so peculiarly its own to Old Rugbeians, the associations with which call to mind so many deeds of the past—as the Honourable and Rev. George Bridgeman, editor of *Recollections of School Days at Harrow*, more than fifty years ago, says:—

> I remember, I remember
> How my boyhood fleeted by,
> The Football of November
> And the Cricket of July;

whilst the new pavilion now predominates the hearts of younger generations, the XI and the XV, an ornament as it is to Big Side. The Gymnasium, too, which stands adjacent to it, was erected in the early seventies—well worthy of the Close and School.

As we pass along and leave these cherished surroundings, towards the little wicket gate on the south before emerging into the Barby Road, our eye naturally falls upon the ancient British

tumulus, crowned with trees, which carries our thoughts back some 2,000 years. It bears the name of 'The Island' still, and up to about the year 1850 was surrounded with water. It formed a conspicuous part in the great rebellion of the School, which took place in November, 1797, and concerning which the following interesting account is given in the School register (p. 27):—

'As Dr. Ingles was walking in the town he heard sounds of pistol shots in the direction of Gascoigne's boarding house, where he found a boy named Astley discharging cork bullets at some of the study windows. The boy owned to having purchased the gunpowder at Rowell's. Rowell had, however, entered the powder as tea, and denied having sold any gunpowder, whereupon Astley was disbelieved and flogged. The boys indignantly broke all Rowell's windows, and Dr. Ingles ordered the Vth and VIth forms to pay for the damage, and they replied with a round-robin to the effect that they would do no such thing, and on the Friday evening at fourth lesson a petard was fixed to the head master's school door which blew it open. The following day, after second lesson, the School bell, sounding in a very extraordinary manner, announced to the inhabitants of Rugby that an insurrection

had broken out. . . . A small passage at that time connected the upper school with the School-house kitchen. In this passage the breakfast bread and milk was served to the School-house boys, and Dr. Ingles always entered the School in this way. This passage door was wantonly nailed up by the boys, who next proceeded to break the windows in every school, and to burn the benches, desks, wainscoting, and books of the master, in the play-ground, the Dunchurch Road being lined with spectators. Dr. Ingles had sent messengers to summon the masters to the School-house, but all were away. The two Sleaths, one afterwards Head Master of Repton, the other High Master of St. Paul's School, London, were trolling for pike. Another master was out shooting rabbits at Brinklow, and, on his return, found the head of his house (afterwards a bishop) had been expelled. Mr. Butlin, the banker, hastily applied to the dealers attending the great horse fair to give their aid in suppressing the mutiny, and he advanced at the head of this party, and some soldiers, who were recruiting in the town, into the Close. On this unexpected appearance, the insurgents, finding themselves far outnumbered, left the scene of conflagration and rapidly retreated to the Island, which

at that time was surrounded with a moat, from 4 to 6 feet deep, full of water, and from 20 to 30 feet wide. A wooden drawbridge, with a spiked gate in the centre, crossed this trench at the place where the cricket pavilion now stands. This was raised from the inside as the army of the enemy approached and surrounded the stronghold; but while the attention of the garrison was directed to William Butlin, Esq., who advanced to the side of the moat reading the Riot Act, and exhibiting a constable's staff, and calling on the mutineers to surrender, on the other side of the Island the recruiting party waded through the moat and entered the fort, and now no resistance was made. The prisoners were ignominiously taken by their captors to the head master, who had not hitherto ventured to leave his study. He now made his appearance and instantly expelled many of the boys, and flogged the others. The commander-in-chief of the rebels was the late General Sir Willoughby Cotton, and it is probable that he was expelled, as he entered the army three months afterwards, and in later life would sometimes good-humouredly allude to the share he took in the great Rugby rebellion, whilst those who were flogged felt it too sore and painful a subject ever to allude to it again.'

Dr. Ingles remained head master nine years after this event, but his life was saddened by the untimely death of his eldest son, and when one told him of the victory of Trafalgar and the death of Nelson, his only reply was, 'Ah that I were dead also!'

Leaving 'The Island' and the Close by the wicket gate, returning to the left along the Barby Road, we find the Art Museum and Temple Reading-room, facing the School field, named after Dr. Temple, who was head master from 1858 to 1869.

Temple was a superb schoolmaster, not only from his high attainments in the scholastic world, but also from his powers of governing and organization, and would, perhaps, have left a greater name to posterity had he never swayed the primate's mitre. We thought it an evil day for the School when he left us, and so indeed it proved, there being a falling off of over a hundred in the numbers of the boys. But for this he may himself have been not a little to blame, in not trying to suppress rather than augment the Hayman riots.

Dr. Temple had busied himself during the summer holidays of 1869 in aiding Gladstone in his destruction of the Irish Church, and almost immediately

upon the reopening of the School after the recess, a notice was affixed to Big School door to the effect that 'the head master had been offered the Deanery of Exeter and had refused the same'. We in our boyish simplicity, not knowing the difference between a deanery and a bishopric, naturally thought that the head master had refused so great an offer of preferment on account of his love of the School and the boys; but not very long afterwards all such hopes were dashed to the ground by another notice upon the same door, which, speaking from memory, read as follows: 'The head master has been offered the See of Exeter and has accepted the same.' The reception he received at Exeter is a matter of history, and need not be recorded here.

> Alas! those days are gone away,
> And their hours are old and grey,
> And their minutes buried all
> Under the down-trodden pall
> Of the leaves of many years.

And as that winter's term wore away, towards its close we were all told upon an appointed day to attend in the School quadrangle to hear the head's farewell oration. And never will the writer forget the scene of that auspicious occasion. There stood

the Doctor upon an erection made for the purpose in the south-west corner of the quad, his sister weeping by his side. The hearts of the boys were also touched, and their eyes lacked not moisture, as they listened to the oratory which flowed from those stern lips. Words came soft and slow, words which could scarcely be breathed, adding sadness—the sadness of farewell—to that already sombre afternoon. Two boys were there amongst the rest, the one a member of the School-house, both about fourteen years of age, and destined for the life of the ministry, when suddenly there fell upon their ears words which memory even after these thirty-six years still recalls:—

'Amongst an audience such as this—amongst so many boys seeking the higher education which this great school affords—there must be several who in years to come will seek Holy orders. Let me remind all who have that good desire in their hearts, that a bishop is the head of the diocese and able to help very materially any candidate for that holy office, and it will be my first pleasure, my great ambition, to promote such endeavours; to aid in every way I can any boy who has been under me here during the years that I have been head master, and especially any boy who hears me this day.'

The two boys made mental notes which gladdened their youthful inspirations. Years passed away, and when at Cambridge University, the School-house boy said to his friend: 'Do you remember Floddie's [1] speech when you and I stood together and heard his good-bye at Rugby? I intend writing to tell him that I am a candidate for Holy orders.' 'Very well, then,' replied the other; 'sit down and write at once.' The letter was accordingly compiled, and the touching incidents of the great speech bearing upon the subject were unearthed and quoted as the two memories could best portray. The document was dispatched, and the result eagerly awaited. It arrived on the third day with scholastic punctuality, and it was in the handwriting of the great chief himself. The seal was broken, and the contents anxiously read, but the letter simply in a few words referred the writer to the Registrar of the Diocese as being able to give all necessary information.

N.B.—The two boys had now become men. One was a scholar of his college. They both took their respective degrees, and the writer of the letter became a fellow of his college, and both were ordained in due course (but not by the Bishop of

[1] Floddie was a favourite nickname for the head master (Dr. Temple) amongst the boys.

Exeter). They received preferment in the Church. One has passed into the better land, the other still works away at his profession, but what would not one kind word have been to them on that bright summer's day at Cambridge.

> Sometimes forgotten things, long cast behind,
> Rush forward in the brain, and come to mind;
> The nurse's legends are for truths receiv'd,
> And the man dreams but what the boy believ'd.
>
> DRYDEN.

A little reminiscence of school life, which also happened during the last term under Temple, may perhaps without any great diversion be mentioned here. A member of the Boughton-Leigh family was walking down town with a schoolfellow, who, when passing along North Street, almost in front of Benn's Field, suddenly pulled a catapult from his pocket and slung a stone through the window of a house where a foundationer of the School lived with his mother, who happened to be looking out of the window at the time; the glass being smashed to pieces in her face. She knew Boughton-Leigh because his home was near the town, but the companion whom she saw do the deed she did not know. She reported the matter to the head master, who sent for Boughton-Leigh and interrogated him on the subject, asking the name of his companion;

but although he agreed that all the details of the case were correct, he pleaded that from early childhood he had been taught never to give away a companion, and he therefore could not divulge his name. Temple sent away the boy, telling him to think it over and return at a certain hour, which he did. 'Well,' said the Doctor, 'and what is the boy's name?' 'I cannot tell, Sir,' came the reply; which brought forth a stern rebuke, accompanied with a short homily on obedience to teachers, &c. But the boy remaining firm was once more sent away, and told to return at 1.30 p.m. the following day, with the reminder that the offence committed was very grave, and, if the culprit's name was not forthcoming, he would have to bear his punishment.

O sight
Of terror, foul and ugly to behold;
Horrid to think, how horrible to feel.

Scene III. Study, next day, 1.30 p.m. Doctor: 'You have remembered what I said. Now tell me the boy's name. Who was with you?' 'I cannot tell, Sir.' Doctor: 'Then go, Sir.'

Newbold-on-Avon Vicarage was always a favourite resort of the Doctor's, and that same afternoon he walked down and expressed words of appreciation

for the boy, whose ideas of right and wrong had led him to refuse the stern request of the head master and to face the ordeal of severe punishment rather than give up the name of a schoolfellow.

> Here the child
> Puts, when the high swollen flood roars fierce and wild,
> His budding courage to the proof.

The culprit was never discovered, but the friendship ceased, as he was looked upon as a coward in not coming forward and giving himself up. He afterwards matriculated at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and was subsequently called to the Bar, and died at the early age of thirty-six years.

> And here
> Declining manhood learns to note the sly
> And sure encroachments of infirmity,
> Thinking how fast time runs—life's end how near.

The Temple Reading-room (previously referred to) occupies the ground floor of the Art Museum, and is now used as the School Library. It is about 70 ft. by 36 ft., and its small windows are filled with stained glass representing the various bishoprics held by old Rugby scholars.

The Art Museum is built upon the first floor, immediately over the Library, and is well filled with fine

collections of works of art and drawings by the Old Masters. There is a house attached for the curator, which is occupied at the present time by the art and drawing master to Rugby School, T. M. Lindsay, Esq., Art Examiner for Ireland, the kind and genial friend of all visitors and lovers of the School.

The Temple Observatory was erected chiefly by the subscriptions from parents of the boys and from Old Rugbeians, aided by the masters, in 1877, and contains a powerful telescope presented by Archdeacon Wilson, whose kindly manner and instruction the author remembers with deep gratitude as his mathematical master when a boy in the School. Upon the ornamental grass plot in front of the Art Museum stands a fine life-sized bust of 'Tom Brown' (Judge Hughes). It bears the following inscription:—

THOMAS HUGHES, Q.C., M.P.,
AUTHOR OF 'TOM BROWN',
BORN OCT. XIX, MDCCCXXII.
DIED MARCH XXII, MDCCCXCVI.

'WATCH YE, STAND FAST IN THE FAITH,
QUIT YOU LIKE MEN, BE STRONG.'

THE SCHOOL-HOUSE, RUGBY

Passing into School Street we come to the new Big School on the right and the School-house on the left, the latter, perhaps, the most picturesque residence in the town. Here the head masters have held sway for many generations. Its ornamental turret tower, with overhanging ivy boughs, makes an impression not easily forgotten, and it is even more endearing as the old home of Arnold, the house where he breathed his last and which had just previously been styled by Carlyle (1842) 'a temple of industrious peace'.

Rugby abounds with buildings and institutions of interest, in addition to those already mentioned—

THE NEW TOWER AND SPIRE, BUILT AT A COST OF £10,000 BEQUEATHED UNDER THE WILL OF THE LATE A. BENN, ESQ.

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Holy Trinity Church, built during the incumbency of the Rev. John Moultrie in 1858; also St. Matthew's Church, erected in 1841, made so renowned by the twenty-five years' ministry of Canon Dixon, D.D., whose earnest eloquence and great learning, coupled with gentlemanly bearing and graceful courtesy, won so many hearts. There is also the public clock and Benn Buildings, and the new tower and spire added to the old parish church, all recalling names and epochs in the annals of old Rugby.

The moat, formerly possessed by the Boughtons, but now being so rapidly built upon, once the site of the ancient castle erected during the reign of King Stephen and destroyed by Henry II; that grand institution the Hospital of Saint Cross, the munificent gift of Mr. R. H. Wood; the Roman Catholic Chapel, with its graceful and tapering spire, one of the most perfect pieces of architecture in the town; the Public Library and Wood Institute, originally founded by Mr. R. H. Wood and supported out of the rates and private bequests (adjoining here is the venerable house known as the Old Red Lion, a licensed house, the home of Richard Elborowe, one of the early benefactors to our town, and again a hundred years after the

scene of the birth of our distinguished antiquary, Matthew Holbeche Bloxam, F.S.A.);—these and many more might be painted in letters of gold, but they scarcely come within the bounds of these short memoirs.

STONELEIGH ABBEY

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CHAPTER X

STONELEIGH

FIFTEEN miles from Rugby and about three and a quarter miles from Kenilworth Castle—so famous in the days of Elizabeth, but now in ruins—stands the historical Warwickshire mansion known as Stoneleigh Abbey, the seat of the late Lord Leigh, for fifty years Lord Lieutenant of the county. About a mile from the Abbey stands the village of Stoneleigh, whose parish church is a large and venerable building. It is dedicated to St. Mary. The square tower is supported by strong buttresses. There is a large Norman arch between the chancel and the nave, finely ornamented and supported by columns. Around the East end there are several small arches, and on the South side of the chancel is the mausoleum of the Leigh family, with a beautifully worked ceiling, and in the chancel there is a splendid monument to the memory of Lady Alice Leigh, Duchess of Dudley. During the excavations whilst building the mausoleum a recumbent figure

in stone was found in an upright position in a wall, probably in memory of Geoffrey de Muschamp, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in the reign of King John. There is a free school here, founded in 1708 by Thomas, Lord Leigh, who bequeathed £20 a year for its maintenance, and in 1731 the Hon. Ann Leigh gave £1,000 to further endow it, and the annual income is about £130. Almshouses for five old people—men and women—were founded in 1575 by Dame Alice Leigh, and her descendants for many years increased the endowment. The village is situated upon the river Sow, near the spot where it joins the Avon. The beautiful Abbey was originally founded by Henry II in 1154 for Cistercian monks, who came from Staffordshire on account of the foresters disturbing their devotions, and is dedicated to the Virgin. In the year 1254 this monastery was greatly damaged by a fire that broke out, but was repaired in 1300 by Robert de Hockele, who built the gateway tower (which is a fine example of the Decorated style) leading through a lofty archway to the lawn in front of the Abbey. The remains of the ancient buildings form the cellars and domestic offices of the elegant modern mansion erected by the Leigh family. Set amidst rich pastoral scenery within the domain

once covered by a part of the Forest of Arden, and watered by the river made renowned throughout the world by the genius of William Shakespeare of the neighbouring town of Stratford-on-Avon, it affords a never-ending feast to the lovers of nature. To the local historian the Abbey appeals with a still stronger fascination. Around its walls cling much romantic history. It illustrates the changes of national architecture from the twelfth century to the days of William IV.

It retains many of the links which connect it with the monastic times, and it is too near Kenilworth not to have felt something of that brilliant outburst of splendour which distinguishes even to these days the recollections of the Elizabethan period. The casual observer, unread it may be in history, cannot help feeling something of the dignity of past ages as he surveys the old place. An irresistible impulse draws him to those days of chivalry; the days of stern prowess, when the will of the aristocrat was law; the days of monastic glory and of monastic spoliation. All are here emblematically represented. To-day, opulence and generosity have met in the abode. And the consequence is that the late noble owner, with wisdom, harmoniously blended the old-time hospi-

tality and courtesy with an impartiality which can be appreciated by all who reverence the glorious monuments of a great age, thereby allowing rich and poor to enjoy the expansive park and, at frequent intervals, the interior of the mansion. Is not this as it should be, when we remember that at best we are but life-renters of such legacies, the heirlooms of future generations? By this thoughtful beneficence the late Lord Leigh won golden popularity from all around, and at the same time strengthened the claims of the English peerage to a still more honourable place in the esteem of the people.

The interest which even a brief half-holiday ramble furnishes to the lover of the antique and the beautiful here at Stoneleigh is not to be lightly esteemed. It carries our thoughts back very vividly to the days of the second Henry. It causes us to ponder over that epoch, which was essentially monastic, of the age when the cloister held out the greatest attraction to men of piety and men of taste. It furnishes a dividing line of national history, when men were forced either to accept the stern unrelenting life of military warfare or retire from the world into the sacred confines of the Abbey walls.

Such spots as Stoneleigh make the reflective mind think more seriously of other modes of life, and other avenues of earthly calling than those into which our modern-day life is cast. It should teach us to pass a less hurried opinion on former days, and the ambitions or motives which dominated the minds of our remote ancestors.

The monastic foundation continued until its suppression by Henry VIII, who bestowed the Abbey and its surroundings upon Charles Brandon, the Duke of Suffolk (a lineal ancestor of the writer of these memoirs), and his heirs, through whom it came in due course to Sir Thomas Leigh, Alderman and Lord Mayor of London, 1558, who obtained in the fourth year of Elizabeth a patent of confirmation for the whole of his property in Warwickshire, together with the manor of Stoneleigh.

The late owner, Lord Leigh, died (1905) in his eighty-second year;—an ideal nobleman, who preserved the old place in the same excellent condition in which he found it nearly half a century ago.

The mansion is the work of different ages, and contains a goodly collection of old oil paintings by famous masters, and many family portraits. The garden on the south is very beautiful in the summer time. The river Avon nearly surrounds the Abbey,

and flowing in front, is crossed by a handsome stone bridge. The venerable oaks adorn the splendid park, and can only be equalled in the royal domain at Windsor. The whole surroundings are redolent with the memories of the past. One seems to re-live in the days when the haughty Queen of the Tudors, Elizabeth, paid her ever memorable visit to Lord Leicester of Kenilworth. The great age which produced Shakespeare seems to come back again as we view the extensive plain rising gently from the Avon—'the rich verdant slopes of leafy Warwickshire.'

Few spots in Warwickshire are more capable of inspiring the poet's muse, and it is too near Shakespeare's old home not to share some of the grand traditions which are centred round Stratford-on-Avon. We can hardly conceive that Shakespeare did not tread these verdant meadows by the streams;—so many of his sketches of woodland scenery seem word-pictures of those undulating landscapes; a peculiar witchery, in place of better definition, pervades the whole country-side, with its fine old Norman church—a place of delight to archaeologists. The relics of monastic days, the superb glory which then crowned as with a halo the magnificence of Leicester's earthly home,

Kenilworth Castle, must have rendered Stoneleigh fit vicinity, in the days of the Renaissance, of peculiar and tender veneration to the plastic imagination of the immortal bard.

Let all those who love our native land turn their steps in summer time to this beautiful country-house, where is bound up so much of what is sacred in the hearts of all who understand and can appreciate the historic memories of their fatherland.

BILTON CHURCH

CHAPTER XI

BILTON

THE parish of Bilton is beautifully situated on the south-west of Rugby, about one and a half miles from that town, on high ground decked with many a noble forest tree. The church, with its handsome spire standing out majestically in their midst, is dedicated to St. Mark, and chiefly of the Decorated style, dating from about 1350. It consists of nave, chancel, and North aisle. The tower and spire are somewhat later. There are also North and South porches. The window in the

BILTON HALL

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nave was erected by the late Lady Eyre to the memory of her husband and son, and that in the North aisle was presented by the Hon. and Rev. G. Bridgeman. The organ possesses a richly carved case, which originally formed part of the organ in St. John's Chapel, Cambridge, and was the gift of the late Mr. John Lancaster, of Bilton Grange. The tower contains five bells. The Dowager Countess of Warwick presented the treble, and the second, third, and fourth date from before the Reformation. The parish register commences in 1655, and the list of rectors from 1308.

Several generations of the Boughton family lie buried here beneath the chancel floor.

The manor house, or hall, and the advowson of the living having came into their possession early in the reign of James I, they made Bilton Hall one of their homes for over a hundred years. It stands in its own grounds, in perfect repose, adorned with shading trees and shrubs of great beauty. A fine avenue of lime-trees leads from the entrance gate. The edifice was erected at various times, but chiefly in 1623 by Thomas Boughton, the youngest son of Sir Edward Boughton, Bart., of Lawford Hall, who married Miss Catesby of Lapworth Hall. In the year 1712 Sir William Boughton, Bart., sold Bilton

Hall to his friend the Right Hon. Joseph Addison, poet and moralist, who, charmed with its many attractions and picturesque surroundings, infused new life into its old walls. Addison, even at this time, was looked upon as a man of letters and the genius of the age. He afterwards became Secretary of State, and had to seek a home nearer

BILTON HALL, GARDEN FRONT

London on account of the distance, there being no London and North-Western Railway trains in those days. But Rugby was the better and the richer for his stay there, and we may well call to mind those immortal lines written on his death by Tickell:—

Oh, if sometimes thy spotless form descend,
To me thy aid, thou guardian genius, lend!

When rage misguides me, or when fear alarms,
When pain distresses, or when pleasure charms,
In silent whisperings purer thoughts impart,
And turn from ill a frail and feeble heart;
Lead through the paths thy virtue trod before,
Till bliss shall join, nor death can part us more.

The years that Addison lived here were by no means the most uneventful of his life, for here he brought his bride, the Dowager Countess of Warwick, whose delicate and pointed features have been preserved to us by the pencil of Sir Godfrey Kneller, whose work was executed at Bilton. In the garden, too, we can still see the solemn yew hedge along which Addison took his favourite walks, the tree planted by his own hand, and the rustic seat whereon he composed some of those lyrics which remain 'fresh in eternal youth, immortal as the intellectual lips which gave them birth'. Here, too, the great master of our language composed his last prose work, *The Evidences of Christian Religion.* He died at Holland House, London, and after his death his widow and only child, Charlotte, continued to reside at Bilton Hall; the daughter, remaining until the close of her life, died here in March, 1797.

A school was endowed here with £20 a year by the Rev. Langton Freeman, Rector of Bilton, who died in 1783.

DUNCHURCH CHURCH

CHAPTER XII

DUNCHURCH

About three miles on the south side of Rugby we come to Dunchurch, with its various hamlets of Causton, Tofte, and Thurlaston, which extends itself to the beautiful banks of the river Leam. This important village stands upon rising ground, and evidently takes its name from *done* or *dune*, which means in our old English a hill, and *circe*, a church. The present church is a typical Warwickshire edifice, without any architectural features to call forth special notice; it is dignified in outline and solemn in aspect. Reared slowly, through many generations, it illustrates to the cultured archaeologist's eye the several distinct styles from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries. Its fine square tower, said to be the work of the monks of Pipewell, brings before the mind

the days when the monastic brethren held the adjoining domain, known as Bilton Grange.

By a patent dated Aug. 25, 12 Hen. VII, and confirmed shortly afterwards, a free warren was granted, which in the time of Queen Mary passed to Sir Thomas Leigh and Sir Rowland Hill, and was afterwards settled upon Sir William Leigh, the younger son of Sir Thomas, who had issue Sir Francis Leigh, who in the eighteenth year of James I's reign obtained a special patent for a court leet to be yearly held within this lordship, from whom it descended to his son and heir, Francis, Lord Dunsmore, who was living in 1640. Sir W. Dugdale, in his treatise on Thurlaston in this parish, says: 'The monks of Pipewell had a charter of free warren in all their lands here, which lands, after the dissolution of the monastery, being by Queen Mary granted to Sir Rowland Hill and Sir Thomas Leigh, were in like sort as the manour of Dunchurch by partition allotted to the said Sir Thomas Leigh, settled upon Sir William Leigh, his youngest son, whose grandchild, Francis, Lord Dunsmore, now (1640) enjoys them.'

The monks of Pipewell also possessed lands here, upon which there was a grange called the Bigging, situated upon that part of the field named 'Stoke-

well Furlong', which came into the possession of Edward Boughton of Causton, Esq., in the twenty-fifth year of Henry VIII.

Here, too, at Dunchurch was granted a charter for a market and fair by Charles II, through the instrumentality of Lord Dunsmore, afterwards created Earl of Chichester, whose body lies amid the ruins of the old church at King's Newnham. This charter became a most important franchise for the hundred of Knightlow, by a grant from the Crown of a court for the recovery of small debts under forty shillings, held every three weeks here; and as County Courts were not yet heard of, we can easily imagine how great the boon must have been to all the small shopkeepers and men of business in the neighbourhood.

The interior of the church is galleried on the north and south; at the south-west the organ is placed, and the tower contains six good bells, the largest of which weighs about one ton.

In the church is laid to rest the body of Lord John Montagu Douglas Scott, a typical landlord, whose statue, erected by a wide circle of his friends in the neighbourhood, occupies the centre of the village green. Also in the chancel here repose the ashes of several members of the

Boughton family, who lived at Causton Hall in this parish; the last member of that family who was buried here was Francis Boughton, the founder of the free school at Dunchurch. He died on July 31, 1707. The present school-house bears the following inscription:—

THIS FREE SCHOOL,
ERECTED A.D. MDCCVII,
WAS ENDOWED BY FRANCIS BOUGHTON,
OF CAWSTON, IN THIS PARISH, ESQ^RE, FOR
INSTRUCTION OF THE CHILDREN OF PARENTS RESIDING
IN THE PARISH OF DUNCHURCH,
IN THE LEADING BRANCHES OF USEFUL
KNOWLEDGE, AND IN THE PRINCIPLES
OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

It is good sometimes to revisit the birthplaces, the scenes of labour, the last resting-places of great men whose thoughtful legacies bequeathed to us of succeeding centuries that which we now enjoy, that we may be led to think of them, not as mere accidents in the wonderful dispensation of the past, but to regard their noble actions rather as great premeditated designs of men whose souls looked through earthly mists to higher things. Their deeds then bring to our minds, frequently to our

hearts, those sublime thoughts, the true inner meaning of which is, as Wordsworth says, 'too deep for tears', as we are led perhaps to recall that fine sentence: 'Let us praise famous men and our fathers that begat us. . . . The Lord hath wrought great power by them from the beginning. Their bodies are buried in peace and perish, but their name liveth evermore.'

Here we find the living seed, planted generations ago. It is but the village charity school, founded by a wise and good man as an inheritance for ever to the place of his birth, opposite to the dear old church he loved so well, that succeeding generations might be early trained in that love of God which had been so dear to him all his life long.

It is good that youth should have a fair seed-time if we are to reasonably expect a plentiful harvest, and this seed-time in youth, if it is to produce all that is 'true and of good report', should be such as will lead boys higher, maturing thoughts to pure and perfect deeds. No school of its kind, perhaps, has been more successful in moulding men's minds to lives of unselfish devotion and duty than this free school, founded wellnigh two centuries ago by Francis Boughton in 1707.

The chief historical interest of Dunchurch is

its connexion with Robert Catesby and his brother conspirators on the eve of that fatal November 5, 1605. A hunting meeting had been arranged to take place on that day at the old Lion Inn, a picturesque Elizabethan house, now a private dwelling on the right of the road leading to the church from the village green. It was planned by Catesby to gather here the chief of the old Catholic gentry of the Midlands, and, in the event of the plot succeeding, to proceed to Combe Abbey, near Coventry, and seize the Princess Elizabeth (then residing there under the protection of Lord Harington), and convey her to London and proclaim her the queen. By these measures it was hoped to reinstate the Catholic faith again dominant in the country. But, as all students of our history know full well, the plot was discovered, Guy Fawkes was arrested, and the conspirators finally shot or executed. Since those dark and woful days this village has enjoyed a uniform course of tranquillity, now and again reviving under the influence of its annual wake, when it has burst forth into a brief season of jollity and merriment, or when the old Parliamentary elections came round the old place reassumed again some of its former hospitality and excitement. Its green has

often resounded to the rough horse-play of its sons of toil, as it has witnessed its political encounters in the good old days when candidates for St. Stephen's were returned more by force of generosity than political zeal. Remembering the gallons of beer that were consumed, its banquets and its convivial entertainments at its old hostelries, we must not fail to recollect that the village was then the central and guiding spirit of a widespread district, Rugby in those days holding only a secondary place. At that time Dunchurch was one of the most flourishing parishes in the vicinity, and most strenuously and successfully did its inhabitants oppose the approach of the railway when the North-Western contemplated making here their great station, compelling that company to turn aside and under the greatest difficulties make Kilsby Tunnel (a marvel of engineering skill to this day), and consequently Rugby its first chief junction out of London.

Yet even to-day Dunchurch is a picturesque place and still bears evidence of more opulent days. It maintains yet that proud dignity which ever distinguishes people, no less than places, who have once occupied more favourable positions. It has been superseded, it is true, by Rugby. The railway has blotted out of existence the good old coaching days.

Its market, once so renowned, has fallen into disrepute, and its trade has considerably declined under the influence of agricultural depression; yet what a dignity of its own still haunts the spot, 'on a fine hunting morn when to the cry of the hounds as they besport themselves in front of its famous hostelry, the Dun Cow,' the old place reawakens, recalling once again the very spirit of the best traditions of the past. The fine avenue of Scotch firs, so well known for their majestic grandeur, extends for six miles, and is said to have been planted by John, Duke of Montagu, about the year 1740. Its venerable church yet bears witness to the zeal and industry of the monastic brethren of Pipewell; its village school proclaims aloud the religion of its founder, Francis Boughton, a former lord of Causton; its almshouses are associated with the noble profession of printing in the person of Mr. Thomas Newcombe, whose monument on the north wall of the chancel of the church proclaims that he was printer to two English kings; while the old half-timbered house near to the churchyard speaks yet of that woful deed, 'The Gunpowder Treason and Plot.'

CHAPTER XIII

CAUSTON

About a mile on the north-west of Dunchurch is the township of Causton, formerly the site of a monastic grange under the sway of the monks of Pipewell, which has long since passed away, being in 3 Edw. II almost totally consumed with fire by an unhappy accident of a candle carelessly stuck upon a wall, but the fish-ponds remain to remind us of the strict life of conventual rule. The village for a long time became neglected, and is described by Rouse as 'a den of thieves and manslayers', by whom the road from Coventry towards Dunchurch exposed all travellers over the heath to much peril. By the dissolution of the monasteries most of the land here, with the manorial rights, came to the Crown and was granted July 15, 37 Hen. VIII, to Thomas Boughton (youngest son of Sir William Boughton of Lawford Hall) and his heirs, and passed through him to Edward Boughton, his son and heir,

who through the influence of Robert, Earl of Leicester, bore great sway in this county in Queen Elizabeth's time, and he built here a lovely country home with the materials from the Whitefriars' Church at Coventry, described by Dugdale as 'the most beautiful fabrick that then was in all these parts'. This charming residence continued to stand in its large deer park until the eighteenth century. Causton House now occupies the site, and at the present day it may be seen surrounded by a beautiful old-world garden fragrant with the scent of flowers and enveloped in fine forest trees, not only one of the glories of the vicinity of Rugby, but one of the most secluded and delightful in Warwickshire. In spring and early summer the spinneys are resplendent, carpeted with primroses, wild hyacinth, and white anemone, re-echoing with the song of the birds, whilst in autumn the varying tints of the foliage glorify the scene with a beauty almost indescribable; and the richly wooded slopes, so well known to the lovers of the chase, are a source of eternal charm to the admirers of rural landscape. There in the distance we see Bilton with its fine church and spire, and the old Hall, rich with the memories of the past; the village green, peculiarly picturesque, shaded by its lofty trees, and

the humble homes of the poorer members of the community furnishing a typical picture of rural England.

Walking along the famous London Road we come to the magnificent avenue of Scotch firs and elms planted about 1740; it runs between Dunchurch and Coventry. This road runs through land still, even to this day, in the hands of the Boughton-Leigh family. One historical spot on the south of the same road, just outside the boundary of the township of Causton, deserves notice. It is a lone house at the junction of the avenue with the Bourton Lane and just within the parish of Bourton. It now bears the title of Bourton House, and was formerly a wayside inn with the sign of the Blue Boar, taken presumably from the heraldic badge of Richard III. This once famous inn is rich in legend and romance; no less notorious a visitor than Dick Turpin is said to have rested some time within its walls. Whether this be true or not it is impossible now to say, but the place is famed as haunted, and strange sounds are yet heard—the tinkling of a bell about the hour of eleven by day as well as by night. Even in this very commonplace age, the supernatural still exercises its inexplicable control, and even we, the most practical of people, are

unable as yet to explain the cause. About a quarter of a mile further down the lane is the spot to the right known as the Dun Cow Thicket, traditionally pointed out as the site where one Guy, Earl of Warwick, slew the 'Dun Cow'.

Thus too romance and legend and history, sacred and profane, live together in our country-side. The annals of an old surviving family mingle with the traditions of the country amid which they have been long seated. On the other hand, the more momentous actions of the historical drama have been played frequently by men and women whose forms, names, and characters have long faded into the infinite. Like summer flowers they come and go; like the silent stream they pass onward never to reappear. They call forth here and there from some sensitive mind a passing reflection—a sentimental expression, a touch of regret or silent tear; but the commerce of the world quickly drives them all away, and we pass on to the conventional life of the present hour. It is, however, by visiting some of these peaceful havens of rest that we get most easily in touch with the greatness of the past life of England, and realize more vividly how rich it is in the history, how redolent with the memory of those who toiled before we were born, in order that their successors

should share this glorious heritage of place and freedom.

The present rapid expansion of Rugby bids fair to absorb the outlying districts and surrounding parishes within its municipal area. When that does take place, doubtless part, if not the whole, of this once magnificent estate of the Boughtons will be merged into the far-famed town of Rugby, the town of Arnold, of Moultrie, and of 'Tom Brown'.

'OMNE BONUM DEI DONUM.'
'FORCE AVEC VIRTUE.'

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